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THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2010

VALE COUNCIL HOPES THAT £300K ASSEMBLY GRANT WILL REVAMP COWBRIDGE LIBRARY

VALE Council officers are pinning their hopes on a Welsh Assembly grant of almost £300,000 to revamp Cowbridge Library.

The cabinet of the Vale of Glamorgan Council were meeting yesterday (Wednesday) after The GEM went to press, and were expected to accept an officers 'report, recommending that the council should submit the application.

In a report placed before the cabinet, councillors were told that the application for a Welsh Assembly Government grant of £299,886 under the Community Learning Libraries Capital Development Programme (2010/11) will be for both exterior and interior improvements to the library.

Planned work includes redecoration inside and out, modernising the existing interior, extending the entrance area, the building of a small IT suite to the rear of the building and the installation of self-service equipment.

Other work envisaged is the relocation of the existing computer suite into a separate area.

The report submitted to the cabinet said: "*This will enable the layout of the library to be improved, which will ensure the services offered are in the most suitable environment within the building, and will support the library acting as a 'council contact point' place*."

It adds that the application to refurbish the library was developed after examining customer feedback from user surveys, and after letters of support were received from a number of local organisations.

These included Cowbridge Community College, Y Bontfaen Primary School, Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg, Cowbridge Record Society and Cowbridge Local History Society.

If the grant application is successful, a consultation event will be held in the library to discuss plans in more detail.

'I'm sorry, I don't do stepping stones'

ABOVE:
Horseriders, walkers and dogs ford the River Ogmore.
PHOTOGRAPH by MANDY THOMAS

LAST week's GEM publicised a breast cancer charity 'beach canter' which was organised by TV news presenter Justina Simpson.

Funds for the day are to go towards a new unit at Llandough Hospital in Penarth which will help women being treated for cancer.

In total, there were 207 horses – and 150 people on foot! The Vale public responded in their droves and a delighted Justina commented: "I really believe your article attracted lots of people."

TO READ A FULL REPORT AND TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH WAS RAISED, PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 22.

Spring is here, and so are the lamb – quads!

THERE are few more appealing sights in the countryside than the spring lambs skipping about and at Uplands Farm in Ystradowen they have been celebrating a very rare arrival – lamb quads!

Mrs Jill Rosser, whose husband John has farmed at Uplands all his life, told The GEM: "Over the years, we have had lots of triplets, but it's the first time we have had quads. If there are four, it sometimes means that you may get two big ones and two smaller ones, which means they may not all survive.

"Our quads arrived evenly-sized and are doing really well. They are just three weeks old.

"John is having to help mum by bottle feeding, too, because she hasn't got enough milk for all the lambs."

For John and Jill, it has been quite a busy few days, hosting the Ystradowen point-to-point on Saturday, celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary on Sunday, and looking after the new arrivals!

(*See picture on page 3*)

West Camp will honour Churchill

PART of the huge St Athan Ministry of Defence site may be renamed in honour of Sir Winston Churchill.

Brigadier AJS Storrie has written from the MoD in London to Llantwit Major Mayor, Coun Russell Downe, asking for his comments.

Brigadier Storrie said that West Camp at St Athan had been developed as a separate base for the Ist Battalion of the Parachute Regiment and was distinct from, and stands outside, the area occupied by the Defence Technical College (DTC) development planned for the remainder of the site. He said that in order to ensure that the distinction was clear, it was proposed to rename West Camp Churchill Lines.

He said: "This name has been chosen to recognise and commemorate Churchill's role in the history of the Parachute Regiment and the other force elements within West Camp.

"Internally, it will make clear that Churchill Lines sits distinct from the remainder of the DTC."

Brigadier Storrie said that there would be minimal impact on the local community and little external change, as road signs would still read MoD St Athan.

But he said in view of the long-established links between the camp and the community, he was writing to a number of leading figures to explain the proposal and seek their views.

Coun Downe said that he was supporting the proposal; "I have always been a great admirer of Sir Winston Churchill and the way he saved this country from the Nazis during the war. It is fitting that his name is used as part of the camp."

Coun Downe said that although the letter had been sent to him as mayor, he would be placing it on the agenda for the next town council meeting so that all councillors could express their views.

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Fighting for Porthcawl

WITH the elections once again to the fore, the public are again reminded of the scandal of MPs' expenses; is it a case that all those MPs involved should, as a matter of principle and honour, stand down and not seek re-election?

It is generally accepted that during elections, prospective MPs and councillors promise the earth, but once elected their promises are mostly unfulfilled.

In Porthcawl over the years, there have been numerous debates and discussions on one of its most momentous projects – the regeneration of the town and the people's battle for a swimming pool and sports centre.

In view of the many vital decisions still outstanding regarding the regeneration project, it is essential that we have a forceful, active and strong MP and councillors, irrespective of their political views, who will speak out and fight for the requirements of Porthcawl.

John Jenkins, Porthcawl

Relatives sought

I AM trying to trace some of my relatives and wonder if GEM readers can help?

Eleanor Rose Oliver, died 1940, aged 49 in the Bridgend district. Her daughter, Kathleen Mary Oliver, was born 1912 in Eltham, south-east London, and married Alfred Mummery in 1939.

They were the parents of Brian D Mummery (born 1941) and Jean E Mummery (born 1942), both in the Bridgend District.

Jean married Frederick B Kirby in the late 1960s-early 1970s, again in the Bridgend area, whose children were: Nicholas Edward Kirby (born 1972) in Mid Glamorgan and Helen Elizabeth Kirby in 1975 in the Ogwr district.

Aaron James, Dolphin House 4C, Doust Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 1HH.
E-Mail: who.is.aaron-james@gmail.com

Can readers help build family tree?

I AM researching my family tree and am looking for descendants of my grandfather's sister.

Her name was Margaretta May Jones and she was born in Bridgend in 1901. She married Christopher Williams in 1923 and had four sons, two of whom were called Glyn and Jack.

They lived at 2 Llwydarth Cottages, Nantyffyllon. The rest of the family moved to London in the 1930s.

If anyone has any information please contact me at 8 Winchcombe Close, Swindon, Wilts, SN5 6NJ or email Jackie.Sellars@tesco.net

Thank you.

Jackie Sellars, Swindon

'All manure has dangers'

VIV PRITCHARD's recent letter about horse poo reminded me that in all animal manure, dangers of some sort lurk.

During the First World War, it was estimated that two million horses died. One of the warnings to the soldiers was "do not let the horse tread on your feet" because the manure, being mixed with earth, contained the deadly spores of gas gangrene from which many soldiers died.

All manure is a living bundle of bacteria and toxins and should be recycled back into the earth in a natural way – depending from which animal too – if humans cultivate the soil.

Having lived on a farm where the lady of the house never wore shoes and showed me her marvellous skin, brought about, she claimed, by walking into the various manures the farm generated, I shudder, but no harm ever came to her.

John Coduri, Pontypridd

Battalion 'touched' by community response

WELSH GUARDS SAY 'THANK YOU' FOR A WARM WELCOME

THE 1st Battalion Welsh Guards has sent Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) a special thank you for the warm welcome extended to the regiment earlier this month.

Residents packed pavements and bridges to cheer and applaud the Battalion and its band as they marched through the streets, continuing their series of homecoming marches through Wales's towns and cities.

In a letter addressed to the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Colonel Tom Bonas thanked BCBC for its particular efforts to welcome the regiment.

He said: "We were truly honoured to see so many local people and dignitaries and so greatly touched by the warmth of the welcome from all. I know it made a big impression with the men."

The Mayor, Coun Jefferson Tildesley, said: "On behalf of BCBC and the citizens of the borough, I can say that we were both pleased and proud to be able to show our support in this way. Their efforts are hugely respected by the people of the county borough."

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, added: "Bridgend county borough has a proud tradition of supporting our troops and, once again, citizens turned out in force to honour these brave men and women."

'Doorstep crime' expert offers advice

CARERS in Bridgend County Borough were asked to help in the fight to tackle doorstep crime at an event held in Bridgend.

More than 40 carers attended the event, which was organised jointly by Bridgend Trading Standards and South Wales Police.

Doorstep crime expert and former West Yorkshire Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Steele addressed the audience, explaining the vital role they can play in bringing criminals to justice. By being alert to the signs of doorstep crime and learning tips to keep residents safe, carers are perfectly placed to help vulnerable people to stay safe.

Brian Steele said: "To see so many people turn up to this event and show their commitment to catching these ruthless criminals is very encouraging. Make no mistake, we are not dealing with 'cowboys' here; these are professional criminals and we must do all we can to bring them to justice and raise awareness of this type of crime."

Doorstep crime can affect anyone, but often it's older, vulnerable or socially excluded people who are targeted by rogue traders, bogus callers and distraction burglars.

Victims are often too embarrassed to say what has happened to them, making it one of the most under-reported areas of crime. An estimated nine out of 10 cases will never reach police or trading standards.

The BCBC deputy leader, Coun David Sage, said: "We can all play our part by looking out for our neighbours, especially if they are vulnerable.

"We also need people to tell the police or trading standards officers here at the council if they think they have been targeted."

Tips that could prevent the person you care for from becoming a victim:

- Use the 'if in doubt – keep them out' message. You do not have to open your door and it's not rude to ask someone to leave;
- Keep doors locked and use precautions such as a door bar, door chain and spy hole;
- Keep gardens and the outside of the property tidy. Rogues will often target homes that look poorly maintained;
- Encourage the safe storage of money, credit cards, cheque books, savings books and other valuables;
- Always ask if anything unusual has happened or whether anyone has called uninvited;
- Where crime is suspected, don't handle flyers, bills, tools or anything else left behind and don't be tempted to tidy up any mess as all of these things can hold useful information about the identity of the doorstep criminal;
- NEVER engage with a trader who has simply 'cold called' at the property.

Out-of-work adults will receive support

A PROJECT which will support out-of-work adults has been backed by Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet members.

The regional COASTAL (Creating Opportunities and Skills Teams Alliance) Project is an EU-funded scheme aimed at providing vocational guidance, employment skills, training and lifelong learning opportunities for adults who are economically inactive as a result of disability or social disadvantage.

It focuses on promoting recovery and building on strengths and capabilities, to make those being targeted less dependent on services.

Cabinet members agreed that the county borough should support the initial development of the scheme and that Swansea Council as the lead sponsor for COASTAL will project-manage it.

A further report will go to the cabinet to look at how the project may be funded in the future.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for well-being, said: "This is good news for people with significant disabilities and challenges.

"It is an excellent example of us working collaboratively with other local authorities and fits in well with the positive work we are doing here in Bridgend remodelling our adult social care services."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	07.47	9.5	20.03	9.7
16 Fri	08.21	9.6	20.38	9.6
17 Sat	08.57	9.4	21.11	9.4
18 Sun	09.36	9.3	21.46	9.2
19 Mon	10.12	8.8	22.28	8.8
20 Tues	10.57	8.5	23.22	8.3
21 Wed	11.55	8.1		
22 Thur	00.24	8.0	13.12	7.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm – information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm – advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm – information only.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
WATER SUPPLY (emergency) **0800 0520130**
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS (Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
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Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752/668090.**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
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Pleasure Park welcomes crowds at the start of 'a new Vale era'

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE showman charged with reviving the fortunes of Barry Island Pleasure Park declared, "it's the start of a new era", as people flocked to the rides last week.

Taking a few precious moments away from supervising the new attractions, Mr Vernon Studt of VAW Studt Funfairs, told The GEM: "We opened on Good Friday when it was raining, although it did clear up by about 2pm. Saturday was poor, but we were delighted with the turn out on Sunday and Monday.

"From then on we've had crowds of people – last Saturday was exceptional – and they have been delighted by what they have seen.

"People have been coming up to me and shaking my hand and saying 'What a great job!'

"We've opened the entrance to the Pleasure Park directly opposite Barry Island train station and that has made a difference with people getting off the trains and coming straight into the park."

Swansea born Mr Studt's family have been involved in running fun fair attractions since 1837.

"My great grandfather started in the businesss in the 1800s.

ABOVE: Showman Vernon Studt on the dodgems at Barry Island Pleasure Park where the crew of hit TV series Gavin and Stacey once filmed.

"I've been in the business since I came out of school, and in my time have run fun fairs in locations in Wales such as Swansea, Cardigan, Neath and Aberystwyth – and a lot further afield in Oman and Dubai!"

Mr Studt has struck a deal with Mr Ian Rogers, the site owner, which has enabled him to bring in his rides, with colleagues in the fun fair trade waiting in the wings with more rides when more space becomes available.

For three years, as a tenant, Mr Studt has had rides in the park, but he was always keen to do something more ambitious and came to a leasing agreement with Mr Rogers earlier this year.

"We now have 14 attractions, and over the next few months would like to double that amount – the more rides and entertainment we have, the more visitors we will attract to Barry Island.

"I hope that my colleagues will be on site with more equipment in time for the spring bank holiday.

"The most popular rides are the dodgems, where Gavin and Stacey was filmed once, The Terminator, and The Jumping Frogs."

Mr Studt was keen to thank the Barry and Vale public for responding with such enthusiasm to the re-opening of the Pleasure Park.

"I want to thank the local people for their support and in May or June I'm planning to have a special 'Barry Day' celebration."

Mayor says 'thank you' for supporting charity events

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge, with Llanblethian, Coun and Mrs Jon Harris, would like to record their thanks and appreciation to all those who have supported their monthly coffee and cake mornings in the Mayor's Parlour of the Town Hall in aid of their charity Breast Cancer Care.

The last event in support of the charity will be the Mayor's Ball on Friday, April 23 in the Bear Hotel, at which it is hoped a final cheque for the monies raised will be presented to a representative of the charity.

Coun Harris said: "Our thanks go out to those friends, traders and fellow councillors who are supporting this evening by attending and donating prizes for the raffle.

"There is still room for one or two more people and prizes!

For further information people can call me on 01446 773798.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Charity appeal

FORMER Llangan Primary and Cowbridge Comprehensive school pupil, Louise Jones, is preparing for a very tough challenge.

Louise and a group of friends are attempting to climb the three peaks of Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours to raise money for Motor Neurone disease research.

The group's friend, Paul Hartland, was diagnosed with the disease a few months ago at the age of 33.

Louise and the group decided to do something positive and so the Three Peaks Challenge group was formed.

Louise has always taken an active part in sport during and since her college days. The group has completed lots of training, which has involved everything from half marathon runs, a six-hour non-strop spinning event, triathlon training, completing the three Yorkshire peaks in 24 hours and early morning gym sessions before resuming their working day.

Although their preparation has been tough, knowing that they were raising money for such an excellent cause and doing something positive, however, small, has really helped, she explained.

Any GEM readers wishing to donate to this worthy cause, can go to www.justgiving.com/walkingforpaul; or direct to Louise Jones, No 1 Olaf Court, 50A Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DG.

LEISURE CENTRE UNVEILS NEW FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

All smiles in the 'Changing Places' room.

VALE AM, Jane Hutt joined Sol Jorgensen and her son Seth, from Wick recently, to view facilities for disabled people at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, after the installation of a fully-equipped 'Changing Places' room, designed by Vale Council architect Paul Scourfield.

The new facility for the disabled.

Jane Hutt said: "Seth and Sol Jorgensen are now able to visit Cowbridge Leisure Centre to use the gym with the confidence and convenience of a fully equipped and automated 'changing place' for disabled people.

"As a response to the MENCAP 'Changing Places' campaign, the Vale Council is providing these facilities in Cowbridge which should attract many more disabled visitors and users to the Vale. The Welsh Assembly Government is also funding these facilities across Wales.

"If this suits disabled people, it also suits their carers and the public at large. Congratulations to the Cowbridge Leisure Centre, Paul Scourfield and to the personal trainers who have supported Seth in opening up the gym for his enjoyment."

A touch of opera from Jeff

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

OWING to the January meeting being postponed, an extra meeting was squeezed in at the end of March.

Opera singer Jeff Woods, affectionately known as 'The Singing Speaker' spoke about his favourite comic characters on stage and screen.

Jeff has sung for many leading opera companies and members were treated to hearing him sing some of his favourite opera pieces.

At the April meeting, president Joy Brooking reminded members that the link meeting of Llanharry, Bont Faen, Llanblethian and Ystradowen was on April 14 at Ystradowen Hall, hosted by Bont faen Wi.

Six members are attending the spring council meeting at St David's Hall when the guest speaker will be Ruth Jones.

Rowena Millward was welcomed by president Joy Brooking, who spoke about her teaching experiences in Port Elizabeth. This was a volunteer 'working holiday', teaching English and supporting children in a classroom with very little resources, and it was amazing how material were improvised.

The competition was a knitted vest to fit babies up the age of two to be sent to Kisiizi Hospital, South Uganda.

There were 24 vests on display, knitted by members, in a wide variety of colours using a set pattern.

Rowena had the hard task of judging these and said each one was worthy of first prize.

However, one had to be chosen and Kath Worgan's was the lucky winner.

Birthday wishes were sent to Mrs Rhiannydd Jervis, an honorary life member, who is 98 today (April 15).

JR

Bridge results

COWBRIDGE and District Bridge Club met at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge on April 6.

The results were as follows: 1st, Pat and Brian Swain 66.82 per cent; 2nd, Anne Hughes and Sara Bartlett 58.00; 3rd, Pauline McAllen and Marian East 55.50; 4th, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 53.50; 4th, Joyce Birmingham and Pam Higgs 53.50; 6th, Margaret Bancroft and Muriel Maslin 50.00.

Pat and Brian were pleased to be the only pair who scored a grand slam during the evening.

As previously advised, the club will be at the Lesser Hall until Tuesday, May 11.

'EWE ARE SO CLEVER, MUM!'

John and Jill Rosser with the lamb quads and the proud mum. (See story on page 1).

Parade of dolls through the ages

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI

THE April meeting of Ystradowen and district WI took place in the village hall on April 7 when the speaker was Steve Jarvis, who presented his collection of old fashioned toys.

These are kept with care in a wicker hamper and the first toy to come out was a Welsh china doll dating back to 1889 and still in pristine condition. She was dressed in the traditional Welsh costume from that era. He next presented three dolls made by a lady called

Nora Wellings around 1900. These Steve had cleverly secured in glass bottles to protect them.

One of the dolls was dressed in a sailor's outfit and the enterprising lady had embroidered the names of cruise ships on the hats and these were sold on the cruise ships.

Next came a familiar item, the Chad Valley spinning top and then Steve's very own Chad Valley teddy bear. At that time, Chad Valley was produced in their factory in Wellington Shropshire.

During the 20th century, many changes took place and many well known companies were taken over by the Lines Brothers, who bought Triang toys and produced items such as trikes and scooters.

They also owned Hornby and out came an original double O gauge train set . Dinky toys were another asset of the Lines Brothers and Steve produced a dinky car in the original box.

President Val Owen thanked Steve for a very interesting presentation. Finally Val chaired the business session for the month.

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BROTHERS BATTLE FOR WIN IN MEMBERS' RACE AT YSTRADOWEN POINT-TO-POINT

The Glamorgan Hunt steeplechases draw bumper crowd

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

REARRANGED point-to-point fixtures are usually a bit of a disappointment, but not at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen, where thousands of racegoers attended the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases – this was despite the attraction of Chepstow races and the televising of the Grand National in which local horse *State Of Play* finished a good third.

In the three-horse members' race, Tom David riding Brett Lloyd's 12 year-old 'chaser' *Roznic*, finished 20 lengths ahead of his younger brother Evan on *Phairy Storm*. *Mr Nemo*, the early leader, was pulled up four fences from home.

Back in 1984, Tom and Evan's mother, then Carol Thomas, riding her grandfather's *Cottage Chest*, beat her brother John who was riding *Chastity Belt*. Evan and Tom's grandfather – Carol's father – Jim Thomas won it on *Mr Worth* when the races were held at Llanmaes in 1963.

The young horse maiden race was won by Luke Price's *HesIvorThe Driver* who came home 12 lengths ahead of *Cranemore*. The French-bred *Qomix*, backed from 4-1 to 4-5 favourite, trailed in last of the five finishers under John Mathias.

Luke (20) from Pontypridd, who paid just £820 for *HesIvorTheDriver*, was back in the winners' enclosure 40 minutes or so later after his eight-year-old *FrenchFurze Lad* had run out an eight lengths winner of the aged maiden. The long odds-on favourite *Kimi* was pulled up.

In the PPORA club members' race, *Get Off The Table*, partnered by John Mathias, and *Victor Merlyn*, ridden by Robert Llewellyn, jumped the last almost together but it was the former which snatched victory by half-a-length. *Liberty Rock,* the favourite was pulled up.

Five runners went to post for the mixed open and all five were ridden by male riders.

David Evans's eight-year-old bay mare *Makena*, ridden by John Mathias, jumped the last ahead of *Silver Story* to win by three lengths.

Jodie Pearn's *Florida Hall*, a six-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Hall*, romped home a 10 lengths winner from *Red Watch* in the restricted.

Mrs Pearn, from Peterston-super-Ely in the Vale, bought the horse at the Doncaster Sales last August.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

LEFT:
One competitor and horse bracing themselves for a safe landing.

'KEEP YOUR DOGS UNDER CONTROL IN THE COUNTRY' *– police warn*

POLICE in the Vale are warning dog owners to make sure their animals can't get out and roam the countryside unattended.

This follows reports of a young lamb being killed on farmland at Ogmore-by-Sea by dogs that had been let off their lead by the owner.

Vale neighbourhood police officer, PC Robin Mellor, said: "There have been a number of recent instances of dogs worrying sheep in the area.

"This tragic case highlights how important it is to make sure your dog is kept under control. Please be very careful when you are walking your dogs in the country, or if you live in the country, make sure your garden is secure.

"The sheep would have been terrified and in many cases where they have been killed by dogs, they have been literally ripped apart. It is vital that people realise just what their dogs are capable of doing, if they are not properly controlled – and that any dog found attacking sheep can be destroyed."

PC Mellor pointed out: "While dogs may not be aggressive in their general nature, dog owners need to understand that often the dog's natural instincts take over in these situations.

"Not only does this have a significant cost to the farmer and cause a great deal of distress or harm to the sheep, there are also legal implications.

"When on any enclosed land with sheep, all dogs must be on a lead or 'under close control'. If you allow your dog to worry livestock, you may be prosecuted and fined, ordered to pay compensation and even have the dog destroyed. I would appeal to all dog owners to consider this and keep your dogs on leads and under control at all times, when around livestock."

With a few exceptions, the law allows farmers to shoot dogs that are threatening livestock.

If a dog worries livestock, the dog's owner, or the person responsible for it at the time, is guilty of an offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and may be sued for compensation by the farmer.

PC Mellor added: "The emotional stress for the farmer is considerable and in-lamb ewes will often abort their lambs when worried by dogs.

"Owners have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control. When unsupervised, the friendly family pet can easily turn wolf and cause untold damage." he pointed out.

Riding club looks forward to its annual Farm X event

ABOVE: The prizwinners line up for the camera.

LLANTWIT Major Riding Club had its AGM on March 25 and looked back over the previous year and its successes.

Winners of the annual prizes were as follows: Attendance – Chloe Jenkins and Eryn Jackson; Best turned out – Isla Haden, Mandy Major and Chloe Watkins.

Jumping points: 12 and under – Genevieve Kirk; Junior – Ellena Dix; Senior – Jade Barrett.

Points: Lead rein – Josie Dix; 12 and under – Abigail Allen; Junior – Maisie Beech; Senior – Joanne Cook.

Other winners were: Jodie George, Adam Dix, Richard George and Owen Poole.

The club's next event is the annual Farm X event, which is similar to a cross-country course but the majority of fences are knock down, and as it is not run as a competition, all fences are optional.

A club spokeswoman said: "It's a great opportunity to have a go at something different and suits all ages and abilities.

"This year, we have a brand new course, with some interesting new fences.

"You must be a member to have a go, but if you are not already, you are welcome to come along on the day. Two classes will be run – the first at 2ft 3ins and then at 2ft 9ins."

The event starts at 11am this Sunday, April 18, at Tremains Farm, Llanmaes.

For more information, contact Sarah Battrick at lmrcnewsletter@hotmail.co.uk and in case of bad weather contact 0791 853 9124.

Local man (28) is cleared of leisure centre voyeurism

A FORMER nurse has had his appeal against a conviction for voyeurism allowed at Cardiff Crown Court.

Khaled Doulli, aged 28, was alleged to have watched a 12-year-old girl as she dressed after a swim in a cubicle at Barry leisure centre by kneeling down and looking under a partition.

Doulli, formerly of Barry, now living in Cardiff, wept when Recorder Paul Hopkins QC, who sat with two magistrates, said: "We have a doubt as to the accuracy of the prosecution case.

"The prosecution have not satisfied us so as to be sure of the allegation."

Doulli, a man with no previous convictions, and who is married, was granted his full defence costs.

He had been found guilty at Barry Magistrates Court last November and had been given a community sentence involving supervision for one year, and had been ordered to carry out 60 hours unpaid work and to pay £500 costs.

Prosecutor Marianne Bennett said that on March 21, the girl and two friends went swimming at Barry Leisure Centre.

When they had finished, she went into the family changing area and into a cubicle to change.

It was alleged that as she did so, she saw Doulli looking under an adjoining partitition.

No complaint was made at the time, but the manager was later informed and the police were contacted.

Doulli said it didn't happen, and he denied ever looking beneath the partition.

He said the girl was wrong in her recollection.

The Recorder said Doulu was six foot two and of medium build and any adult intent on "peeping" would not have been able to contort himself.

Said the Recorder: "There is doubt about the girl's account of what happened."

She claimed that she saw his hand and a knee and a small part of his face.

She also said, the Recorder stated, that the next door cubicle had been closed but not locked.

The Recorder said that before embarking on such a course of conduct, Doulli would have locked the door.

Doulli said he had been in the cubicle to change in private and because he was a Muslim, to preserve his modesty.

He said after the case: "It has been a terrible time for my wife and myself with some very serious repercussions, including the loss of my job.

"We are very pleased the appeal has been allowed."

AJ SICLUNA

St Bride's road bridge repairs will be delayed

THE traffic lights at the Ewenny Bridge on the B4265 look likely to stay for the next three or four years.

The lights were installed as a safety measure until work could be done to strengthen the bridge, which is owned by Network Rail but jointly managed by the rail company and the Vale Council, giving it a 40 ton capacity.

In a report presented yesterday (Wednesday) to the Vale Council cabinet, officers say that the traffic lights were regarded as an interim measure in 2008, when the condition of the bridge was assessed.

As a result of that assessment, the existing traffic signal system was installed to give priority to large vehicles leaving the nearby quarry.

This limits the traffic movements over the bridge to single way working and thereby relieves the "live loading" on the bridge.

A report was presented to the Vale Council cabinet on July 9, 2008, recommending that funding be allocated and that the council enter into an agreement with Network Rail to strengthen the structure so that the scheme could be included in Network Rail's capital works programme 2010/11 – a proposal that was agreed.

The estimated cost to the council was £629,000. The work involved replacing the bridge deck completely on strengthened and widened abutments; the load carrying capacity of the bridge would be 40 tonnes and standard lane widths (2 x 3.65m) would be provided.

The report now says: "Unfortunately, Network Rail then failed to include the scheme in their capital works programme for 2010/11.

"Officers have again met with representatives from Network Rail and confirmed the council's intention that the structure be strengthened.

"Network Rail have confirmed that they have provisionally included the strengthening and replacement scheme in their 2013/14 programme."

The work is now estimated at £782,000, and the council's liability would be 86 per cent of this figure, which equates to £672,500.

Police aim to clamp down on fly-tipping in the rural Vale

POLICE in the Vale are reminding the public that fly tipping is illegal and a blight on the community which can lead to prosecution.

The warning follows a spate of incidents which have been reported to the Vale Council. The majority of the fly tipping is occurring in the lanes surrounding St Georges-super-Ely, and appears to be building and house clearance rubbish.

Neighbourhood PCSO Matthew Smith said: "This type of behaviour is very unusual and will not be tolerated. Fly tipping is an anti-social activity and will be treated extremely seriously.

"I am asking local residents to be aware of any suspicious vehicles carrying waste and rubbish through the lanes in the rural Vale.

"I am also reminding householders that if they pay someone to remove the waste, and it is then dumped illegally, they are still responsible for that waste.

Rural Vale Neighbourhood Inspector Mark Taylor said: "Fly-tippers not only cost the council significant amounts of money to clean up, but can be dangerous; they can fuel fires, harm animals or attract rats and cause a hazard for drivers and other members of the public.

"Dumping any waste illegally is a serious criminal offence that carries a fine of up to £20,000 – unlimited if the case goes to the Crown Court – or an offender can be sent to prison. It is also an offence to permit fly-tipping. The police, local councils and the Environment Agency all treat this problem very seriously and will usually prosecute anyone caught fly-tipping waste.

"Fly-tipping is often associated with dumping waste from vehicles; in this case the person who owns the vehicle can also be prosecuted, which means that it is possible for a prosecution to occur when only the vehicle, not the driver, is identifiable.

"The police also have the powers to seize vehicles used for fly-tipping".

Anyone with information on fly-tipping is asked to contact their local police station 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Curry night

A REMINDER that the Llancarfan Cricket Club has announced that it is holding a curry night at the Fox and Hounds on Thursday, April 29, starting at 7.30pm.

All are welcome and tickets (at £10 per head) are available either from Sue at the Fox, or Rob John on (01446 710376).

Jumble sale

THE popular Tuesday Club jumble sale is coming up on Saturday, April 24 in the Village Community Hall at 1.30pm.

All proceeds are in aid of local charities.

OXJAM date change

DUE to unforseen circumstances, the date for the OXJAM for Haiti Appeal has changed from Sunday, April 18 to Sunday, May 9.

It is still to be held at the Living Cafe (in the old Garden Centre) from 1pm.

It will be an afternoon of live music from local ladies group 'Belladonna', to Blues and Celtic music.

All musicians welcome - please contact Kaitha or Karen in OXFAM or in the cafe.

Anne was born in Canada and married a local man Kevin, and has lived in Barry since 1992. Anne's aim is to sell unique hand crafted products and this has become her passion in sourcing one of a kind items, hand crafted, Fair Trade, Eco-friendly, recycled etc. There will be something for everyone in the shop. Ie, hand made leather journal from the USA, Cluckie Bunnies, each one hand sewn and one of a kind, a variety of drinking glasses made from recycled wine and beer bottles, hand made bags from Vietnam etc, also offering a gift wrapping service. Summertime will see the roll out of our online, bespoke hamper service where you can order a number of items that will be wrapped and delivered to your desired destination. This service will also be available from the shop and by phone.

GIFTED

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21 days until nation goes to the polls

CANDIDATES 'LOCK HORNS' AS GENERAL ELECTION HOTS UP

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ONE of the great traditions of a British general election is that parliamentary candidates clash over claims made by opponents in their campaign literature.

Within the last few days, two of the Vale's leading candidates have locked horns over the contents of a mail drop.

Alana Davies, Labour's candidate to succeed MP John Smith in the Vale, accused her Conservative opponent, Alun Cairns, of "scaremongering" local voters, in a mailing which claimed that crime and anti-social behaviour were rising.

She said that in a letter sent to voters in the Vale, Mr Cairns had stated he was "concerned about rising levels of crime and anti-social behaviour".

Ms Davies said Home Office figures showed that crime had fallen in the constituency, and that Mr Cairns should immediately apologise to voters for misleading them.

She argued: "Alun Cairns' claim is misleading and inaccurate. Crime figures released by the Home Office show that crime for the year up to September 2009 fell in the Vale yet again compared to the previous year.

"They show that there are 11.4 per cent fewer victims of crime, house burglaries are down by 17.8 per cent and violent crime is down by 13.7 per cent.

"Alun Cairns should apologise for his bogus claim.

"He should be honest with voters here in the Vale and confirm that he misled them on this issue.

"His misleading and inaccurate claim also undermines the hard work of the Vale police force which is among the best in detecting and cutting crime."

However, Mr Cairns told The GEM he stood by his claims, and insisted that his figures had come from a Welsh Assembly website.

He pointed out: "The Welsh Assembly Government's website, Statswales, clearly shows this rise in anti social behaviour.

"They are official recorded crime figures and have come from the Home Office. I'll happily point the link out to Ms Davies.

"It is clear that the shortage of officers and resources across the Vale are having an impact.

"When I went out with the police some time ago, I couldn't believe that on one occasion, all officers were tied up at the custody suite because of paper work, and there was no-one on patrol in Barry! This needs to change."

Mr Cairns' figures indicate increases in crime from 2001/02 to 2008/09:

Violence against the person, 1,238 to 1,661 – an increase of 34.17 per cent; sexual offences, 68 to 88 – an increase of 29.41 per cent; and robbery, 36 to 44 – an increase of 22.22 per cent.

For voters, the nub of this issue seems to be whether they regard more recent history as the best guide of a perceived trend, or a comparison over a longer period of time.

RING-FENCED

Meanwhile, Mr Cairns criticised Ms Davies for scaremongering by sending out a "misleading and inaccurate" leaflet, which attacked the Conservatives over the National Health Service.

He claimed: "The NHS is our number one priority and it is completely untrue to say we would cut the amount of money available for the NHS in Wales.

"The Conservative Party has repeatedly stated that the budget for the NHS will be ring-fenced and protected by us in government.

"In any case, health is a devolved issue in Wales and is completely under the control of the Welsh Assembly Government which is run by Labour and Plaid.

"If there is less money for health in Wales after May it will be entirely down to decisions taken by the administration in Cardiff Bay."

Mr Cairns added that the leaflet also referred to Conservative plans to end free prescriptions.

"Again, this is nothing to do with Westminster and is down to the Welsh Assembly. It is our policy to enhance cancer and stroke services, which would be funded in Wales from a modest charge to millionaires who currently receive free prescriptions.

"A total of 90 per cent of prescriptions would remain free. All pensioners, benefit claimants, young people and those with chronic illnesses will still get free prescriptions.

"We have a situation now where people are being denied life prolonging cancer drugs so that others can get free aspirin!"

He added: "We believe that resources must be better targeted so that the money goes to where it is most needed and where it can do the most good."

Ms Davies refuted any suggestion that she had been scaremongering.

She said: "What I have said is that the Tories would end free prescriptions and their public spending cuts would hit the amount of money available to assist the NHS in Wales - and I stand by that statement.

"Mr Cairns himself admits that free prescriptions would no longer be available to all, and I believe people here in the Vale will be dismayed with his statement.

"This is a change that would affect communities across Wales, and would cost more in administering it.

"It's all very well for Alun Cairns to say that the Conservatives will protect the NHS budget. Things are different in Wales.

"In cutting public spending, the Tories will remove money required for the NHS in Wales, and the administration in Cardiff Bay will have less to spend on it. It's as simple as that."

She added: "Just because health is a devolved issue, does not mean we should forget about it. In Wales, we created the NHS and it is the Labour Party's greatest achievement.

"We saved it after the long years of Tory cuts and have invested in NHS hospitals, medical facilities, extra nursing staff and consultants right across Wales.

" Labour will protect it – in Wales – as well as across the UK."

SCHOOL CROSS TAKES AN EASTER TOUR OF THE VALE

The photo shows the banners made by pupils for the services to celebrate Easter.

LLANTWIT, Cowbridge, Penarth and Barry were all stops during Lent for the Cross made in St Richard Gwyn Catholic High – as pupils showed junior schools and churches the true meaning of Easter.

With not a bunny or egg in sight, pupils made banners to represent the journey of Jesus to Calvary, and even composed their own hymns for the services held in the school, to ensure that parents and pupils did not forget the real reason for the traditional holiday.

Year-7 pupil Nuria Horner sang '*I've fallen three times*' composed by the school's 'Canu a Gweddi' group, to the tune of the Ashgrove. Senior pupil Thomas Power asked '*Why me*?' as he sang the story of Simon of Cyrene, who helped to carry the cross 2,000 years ago.

The Cross finished its journey as the focus for the Walk of Witness in Dinas Powys on Good Friday, starting from the Methodist Church.

Pet owner to contact RSPCA over mystery of the missing cats...

by TIM CHAPMAN

A pet lover is to contact the RSPCA, following the response she had to an appeal for local people to contact her if they were concerned about the disappearance of their cats.

Mrs Gail Adams of Coldbrook Road East, Barry has been mystified since her tortoise shell cat, Lucy, disappeared on March 19.

Mrs Adams told The GEM at the time: "I have done everything I can think of to get her back. I've spoken to people, put out flyers, and placed an advert in The GEM, which sparked six calls – but still there has been no joy.

"My next door neighbour's cat has also gone missing, and I've heard of others that have disappeared locally.

"I've got a strange feeling something not very nice might be going on."

This week Mrs Adams was keen to update GEM readers on the response she had received.

She said: "I've had a number of emails from concerned people, and people locally have told me they saw the story.

"It seems that cats disappearing is rife – it is a bit frightening and I will be contacting the RSPCA."

Dawn Rose, who runs the Sunnyside Cattery in Wenvoe, and has carried out work for the RSPCA, said she believed Mrs Adams' concerns were well founded.

She explained: "The number of cats that seem to go missing is phenomenal.

"I know of one woman who lives in a quiet street in Barry where four cats have gone missing."

Dawn is regularly contacted by anxious cat owners who hope their pets may have been found and handed in to her.

She pointed out: "What we are talking about is often much-loved cats who don't wander far because they have everything they need close to home."

Mrs Adams fears that something odd is happening because if a cat is run over or killed locally, it is likely the owner will find out about it – but in numerous cases, cats seem to have vanished without trace.

One woman who lives near Mrs Adams, and whose cat disappeared just before Christmas, emailed her to say: "I too have noticed more posters up appealing for information about their missing cats and feel there is more to it than bad luck."

A GEM reader in a Vale village wrote of her cat: "It seems impossible that he could just disappear without a trace and without someone knowing what happened to him."

One family contacted Mrs Adams to say: "We saw the article in The GEM regarding missing cats and we hope yours has returned.

" However, our family and I have been worried about this problem for many months now, as we have heard of a great number of cats that have gone missing in the Bridgend area, Canton, Rhiwbina and in the Peterston area, where we have seen posters up.

"We also believe that something untoward is going on, as whole streets are going missing at one time.

"We have been very concerned for some time now, and we are anxious every time our cats go out."

If anyone would like to contact Mrs Adams, email her on gail.adams70@ntlworld.com

BRO Radio's success story continues...

BRO Radio Station Manager Steve Powell and Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, are pictured (above) cutting the birthday cake.

TWELVE months ago, Bro Radio began broadcasting across Barry and parts of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Since then, it has broadcast a wide range of quality local programmes and increased its listener base.

Station Manager, Steve Powell is "delighted" with the way the people of the Vale have taken to BRO Radio and the response it is creating.

"We have achieved so much and given the people of Barry and parts of the Vale an alternative to commercial radio and the BBC. We are proud of the service we provide and continue to develop.

"Since launch, we have steadily increased our live and recorded output, developed a local news service in partnership with the Glamorgan GEM, created work placements for young people and worked with local schools, developed community partnerships, provided PA and outside broadcast at community events, covered Vale Council events and campaigns, promoted local charities and voluntary organisations and attracted advertisers and sponsors, from small business to blue chip companies.

"BRO Radio has also provided full-time employment for several people."

It has captured the creativity of its volunteers mixed with the enthusiasm, enterprise and good business sense to create a recipe for success.

"It's been a very challenging year but despite the economic climate, BRO Radio has gone from strength to strength, and the next 12 months will see further exciting developments, making BRO Radio an important integral part of the media family across south Wales."

BRO Radio has the financial support of the Vale Council and the Lottery and is in partnership with the Barry YMCA.

If you would like to know more about the service it provides, call the station on 01446 420681.

Who has lost their camera?

WHILE walking along the promenade at Whitmore Bay yesterday (April 10) I found a little Kodak camera, but in spite of asking around, I couldn't find the owner.

Although I don't believe the camera to be particularly valuable, there are some lovely group images on it of special family occasions. I would be delighted to reunite the camera with its owner.

Please contact me on: *roma.broadbent@hotmail.co.uk or telephone Roma Broadbent on: 01446 722187.*

Home from home comfort

AS an ex-first class rugby player with the usual knowledge of hospitals and nursing homes, may I express my admiration for the way the Springbank Nursing Home in Barry is run.

I have been resident here for the last few weeks with an old rugby injury, so I have had a perfect opportunity of observing the excellent operation at first hand.

Ian M Jewell, Cowbridge

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau is holding outreach surgeries for advice and information at Penarth Library today, Thursday, April 15 and Cowbridge Library on Wednesday, April 21 (both days from 2pm-4pm).

For further information, contact Joe on 01446 421782, or visit www.vvb.org.uk

JUMBLE SALE

A jumble sale will be held by Llancarfan Tuesday Club on April 24 at 1.30pm in Llancarfan Community Hall. Proceeds to local charities.

Comprehensive takes another step along the fundraising road

RIGHT: Headteacher Margaret Evans receives the cheque from PTA treasurer, Rosemary Fisher, with CCFC chairman Charlie Puddicombe in the background.

THE fund to provide the new Cowbridge School with much-needed equipment has received another significant boost after a donation of £10,000 from the school's Parent Teacher Association.

The PTA has put the earnings from a full year's fund-raising activities into the fund, and is committed to working closely with the Cowbridge Comprehensive Fundraising Ccommittee (CCFC) to help raise £250,000 by September.

Paying tribute to the PTA committee who have worked so hard to raise the money, PTA treasurer Rosemary Fisher said: "We've organised a ball, quiz night and race night and several other events over the past year, and handing over this cheque makes all the effort worthwhile."

She added: "We would like to contribute more to the CCFC campaign, so we hope everyone will support our forthcoming events.

"We are holding a May Ball in the Bear Hotel on May 7, as well as a car boot sale in the new school parking area."

In the past, the PTA has paid for an artificial cricket pitch and £12,000 worth of IT equipment, and since the inception of the new fundraising challenge, has worked hand-in-hand with the fundraising committee – to provide the extra facilities needed to "make a great new school fantastic".

CCFC chairman Charlie Puddicombe expressed the committee's thanks for the PTA's hard work and commitment to their shared goal.

He said: 'The PTA has always been right behind our efforts and it's marvelous that we have such a committed partner in working towards our target of £250,000.

"With their support, we are confident that we'll get there."

Charlie urged everyone with connections to the school to support fundraising activities.

Tickets to the May Ball are on sale and details of this event and other fundraising activities can be found at *www.cowbridge-comp2010.co.uk*

ST DONATS CHOIR SINGS IN BATH ABBEY SERVICES

ST DONATS Atlantic Chorale, the recently-formed community choir based at St Donats Arts Centre, last Sunday led the singing at two services in Bath Abbey.

Now 52 voices strong, it was invited to be the visiting choir for Matins and Evensong services.

Geoff Mortimer, chairman of the choir, told The GEM: "It was a proud moment for me. The choir excelled themselves and were no doubt lifted by the fantastic acoustics in the Abbey, which enabled them to give performances far beyond the level they had been achieving in rehearsals. The atmosphere in the coach on the way home was excellent – they just could not stop singing!"

Carl Grainger, musical director, summed up the day when he paid tribute to the choir's efforts: "Singing in an iconic building like Bath Abbey is an exciting experience for any choir, and the warm welcome from the staff and congregation of nearly 300 made singing two services there even more memorable for the St Donats Atlantic Chorale.

"The choir tackled a wide range of music, including major works by Britten and Fauré, with its customary enthusiasm, filling the beautiful abbey with wonderful music – an impressive achievement for an ensemble that has yet to reach its first birthday."

It was the first of five concerts the choir will perform this year": "The next concert takes place in the Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay on Sunday lunchtime, June 6 in the informal atmosphere of the foyer. There is no charge for admission.

This will be followed by an informal summer's afternoon concert in St Donats on July 18. The other two concerts follow in November and December.

If anyone wishes to join the choir, contact Geoff Mortimer on 01446 796620.

Live bands rock in local venue

LIVE music has taken a few knocks in the area lately, as the demise of several popular bands and the loss of the Sub Club in Barry has left a gap in the music scene.

On Good Friday that gap was closed. A new live music venue and three emerging bands, very obviously brimming with talent, were unveiled.

The venue was The Savoy, already established as a bastion of rock music of the recorded variety, it has dipped its toe into the turbulent waters of untamed guitar fuelled live performance. The management seemed pleased with the experiment and the good news is more events are on the horizon.

The evening was opened by The Anderson Connection. Their music fuses guitars and beats with lyrics ranging from thoughtful to downright bizarre.

Shooting the Moon took the reins next; they define their sound as "somewhere between The Cure and Joy Division without the obligatory cloud of depression hanging above".

Clearly conscious that every detail of their music makes a difference, the set was delivered with aplomb and received enthusiastically.

The evening was headlined by Some Kind of Leader (SKOL) – featuring Barry's own Matt Blumberg on bass. They set out their stall early, opening with 'Wrong Side' featuring intense guitar riffs wrapped around some funky bass work; it immediately got the crowd on side.

The band are very obviously talented musicians, and this manifests itself in their confident stage presence and cleverly structured songs, which provided the perfect platform for them to peddle their wares.

ROB SALTER

Llantwit Major family's link with Burma refugee charity

A COFFEE morning will be held in Llantwit Major this month to raise funds for a local woman's charity work with displaced Burmese people now living in Thailand.

The event in Tabernacle Church Hall, Methodist Lane, on April 28 at 10am, is being organised by Joe and Gwen Claase.

It will highlight the work done by their daughter Sonya, who lives in Thailand and works for the charity Partners Relief and Development.

This helps the refugees who have fled Burma, which is ruled by a military dictatorship.

Sonya will be in Llantwit Major at the time and will be present at the coffee morning to explain more about her work as a manager with the charity.

She lives in Thailand and met her Thai husband while working there.

They will be bringing their new baby daughter, Abigail, home for the first time to see her grandparents.

She will celebrate her first birthday on the day of the coffee morning.

Mr and Mrs Claase, who live in Methodist Lane, moved to Llantwit three years ago. Joe is South African and his wife Gwen is English, but they moved to Wales to be near one of their other daughters who lives in Swansea.

The family previously lived in Cheltenham and Sonya has never lived in Llantwit Major, although she has visited the town.

"Sonya does not get paid for her work but relies on donations given by friends and family," said Joe.

"She also belongs to a church which supports the work."

The couple have four daughters and three granddaughters. One daughter lives in London and the other is in Australia.

The couple are both retired and have thrown themselves into the community, joining Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower.

They are hoping that the town will rally around the cause to raise funds for the charity and to support their daughter.

"Thousands of people have fled Burma and are living in dire conditions with extremely limited food, shelter and medical supplies," said Mrs Claase.

"We want to do our bit to help."

Further information is available from Gwen and Joe on 01446 796005.

LLANSANNOR CELEBRATES

LLANSANNOR local history group, LAMBS (Llansannor Ancient and Modern Buildings and Settlement), recently held its 10th anniversary dinner in the Community Hall.

The group celebrated its publications and many visits to sites in south Wales and beyond with a dinner, a storytelling and a 'LAMBS – where and when?' competition, identifying photographs taken during activities spanning the decade.

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GEM reader and green campaigner, Dinky Kennedy, was so taken by our April 1 exclusive on infamous Dutch tycoon Pieter Van Bleuw's latest diabolical plans, that she was inspired to put pen to paper herself – the headline is also her own!

'Green and Bleuw united, in spite of impact on the environment!'

AN emergency meeting was held by the Transition groups in Cardiff and the Vale to discuss news (in The GEM) that Dutch entrepreneur, Pieter van Bleuw, is to build a massive smelting works on the Vale coast.

The Transition group in Penarth Marina agreed to mobilise a flotilla of small boats to support Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior, which was standing by to thwart the construction phase, due to start next April 1.

Both members of the newly-formed Transition group in Ogmore by Sea agreed that the only sensible action was to move house.

They had decided Windsor or Balmoral were the safest bet, as the Palace was unlikely to allow similar blots to appear on their landscape.

Controversial opinions were voiced by the team who had cycled over from Port Talbot.

They said they couldn't see what all the fuss was about as they had suffered with this kind of thing for years.

A spokesman for the group said: "The best you can hope for is that the 60' tower is camouflaged. A daffodil won't do; it should be a subtle shade of green at the bottom and sky blue at the top."

However, in what can only be seen as a major U turn by the Transition group, it was concluded that this could offer a major opportunity to spread the Transition name and that the project would be embraced wholeheartedly in return for publicity.

The spokesman said: "As a group, our aim is to instil a sense of community to Cowbridge and use this collective enthusiasm to engage people in activities that will improve the local environment, reduce its impact on precious finite resources and generally make the town and surrounding area a more resilient and positive place to live."

"However, on reflection, we just thought the opportunity to get the new Transition logo flying from the 60' tower was too good to miss.

"We would encourage all interested parties who would like to offer sponsorship of the 60' tower to come forward.

"Their names could fly alongside the Transition logo."

Bosch workers' update talks

RETRAINING of Bosch workers and the future of the site were on the agenda when Vale AM Jane Hutt met the Bosch works council and the Unite union last week.

She commented: "Following our joint meeting in Stuttgart in February with the European Works Council and Bosch directors, I held a meeting with the Bosch Works Council and Unite the Union at the Senedd to progress the constructive discussion and correspondence with the Bosch management."

'Wales not a digital guinea pig'

I WAS sorry to read in the GEM on April 8 that James Wild is having trouble receiving ITV Wales (*'Give us back our old analogue TV'*).

Digital switchover is now complete in Wales, and the vast majority of viewers have made the change without experiencing problems.

Those who do have reception issues can contact Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50 for initial advice.

After that, it may be necessary to consult a professional aerial engineer, who can assess the suitability of the aerial, the condition of cabling, and so on.

We recommend looking for a registered digital installer (RDI) who carries the 'digital tick' logo. If you can't find an RDI locally, look for someone with associate RDI or CAI plus status - or ask your local electrical retailer.

Wales is by no means a guinea pig for digital television. Nine out of ten households in the UK have already gone digital, and parts of England and Scotland have also completed switchover.

However, Wales is rightly proud to be the first nation to complete the process, and Freeview has become available to almost all Welsh viewers as a result.

Emyr Hughes, Cardiff
(National Manager, Wales Digital UK)

Two military men are on parade as new deputy Lieutenants

Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams with newly-appointed Deputy Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Col Barrie Davies (second left), his wife, Ruth, and current Deputy Lieutenant Colin Jones, of Barry.

TWO Barry residents have been appointed as deputy Lieutenants for South Glamorgan.

Col Barrie Davies, OBE, and Brigadier Rick Libbey, together with a number of previously appointed deputy Lieutenants, assist the Lord Lieutenant (Dr Peter Beck) as his 'eyes and ears' across the county and can also represent him at local ceremonies and official events.

Col Davies is Commandant of Dyfed and Glamorgan Army Cadet Force and received an OBE in last year's New Year Honours list.

He said: "I am very honoured and proud to have been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the preserved County of South Glamorgan and look forward to assisting the Lord Lieutenant in his duties."

Brigadier Libbey is currently the director of the Prince's Trust Cymru, having served 30 years in the British Army. He ended his service as the Army Commander of Wales based in Brecon.

Welcoming the appointments, Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams said: "South Glamorgan is a preserved county of Wales for purposes such as the lieutenancy, and is fortunate to have such a diverse mixture of deputy Lieutenants, whose backgrounds and collective experience is so varied and rich."

RIGHT: Brigadier Rick Libbey has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the preserved County of South Glamorgan.

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre. ***(Telephone 01656 725219).***

Charlie in need of patient TLC

ABOVE: Charlie.

THIS WEEK:
Charlie *is a six-year-old English Springer.*

A centre spokeswoman writes: "He's a complex dog who is sensitive when handled and can be reactive in situations he feels threatened in.

"He needs time to get to know and trust people. In other ways he is typical of his breed, being active and very playful.

"He has mixed with other dogs but is under socialised and struggles to make friends so he will need further help with his socialising.

"He is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.

"He needs a home with an experienced owner and he is not suitable with children.

"His new owner will need to be calm, patient and consistent with his handling, to allow him to build up trust with them.

"Charlie is a strong character but in the right home he'll make a rewarding companion.

"Anyone interested in him will need to visit him a few times at the centre."

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FOLLOW THE (Vale Council) LEADER

ABOVE: The scene at Cowbridge Comprehensive when work began on the new school during last year's summer holidays.

by Coun **GORDON KEMP**
Leader of the Vale Council

MUCH is happening in the Vale and at the council; since my column last month, we have seen the final section of the Pont y Werin put into position.

This new footbridge, which links Penarth and Cardiff Bay, should open in June and I am sure walkers and cyclists will appreciate the latest addition to the Vale.

Like many residents, I am looking forward to seeing work start on Penarth Heights, and hopefully, Crest Nicholson will now start preliminary works.

I was not surprised to see that a recent survey labelled the site the worst eyesore in Wales.

I am sure many of us will be glad when the old Billybanks estate is demolished and new homes have been built.

Work is progressing well on the new Cowbridge Comprehensive School and the pupils and staff can look forward to working in their new school from September.

There could be changes at our leisure centres, too.

We are investigating the possibility of a partnership with the private sector, which will bring improvements to the centres and the services offered.

Sadly, some councils in the UK are considering closing leisure facilities. We hope that with the right partnership we will be able protect the future of our leisure centres.

Areas across the UK, including the Vale, are twinned with towns around the world. At the Vale, we want to give real meaning to these arrangements and a new organisation fostering links between the Vale and its twin and friendship towns has been formed.

The Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association will promote, support and develop links with the Vale's twin towns: Fécamp in France, Mouscron in Belgium and Rheinfelden in Germany, as well as with Jurbarkas in Lithuania and Neumarkt in Italy, with whom we have friendship agreements.

We have agreed a three-year funding package for the association and we hope to see it become self-sustaining in the future.

We now know the date of the general election and the electoral team at the Vale Council are working hard to make sure we are ready for polling day.

There are thousands of polling cards to be distributed, scores of polling stations and clerks to organise, not to mention the logistics of making sure ballot boxes are delivered across the Vale and, at the close of voting, securely transported to the counting centre.

Then there is a long night of counting the votes before the result is declared.

I hope we will see a good turnout in the Vale, with residents taking advantage of their democratic right to vote.

RIGHT: Pictured, left to right are (Back row): Iris Debley, Ken Williams, arts development officer Tracey Harding, Rhian Ellis-Davies, Andrew Whinney. Front row: Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams and consort (far right), with Richard O'Connell.

Art competition winners collect prizes from Mayor

WINNERS of the Vale Council's first art competition, at Art Central last December, have been welcomed at a civic reception.

The 'Spirit of Winter' competition was part of the winter season of exhibitions. Artists living in the Vale were invited to submit pieces in three different categories – experienced professionals, amateur and upcoming artists (aged 16-20).

A council spokeswoman explained that a public vote was held to choose winners for part of the competition, with one piece of work being chosen from each category.

In the professional category, Iris Debley was chosen as winner, with her piece 'Cold Poppies' – a contrast of ice blue poppies against a green background in oil and acrylic.

Ken Williams won the amateur category with his impressive landscape watercolour 'Winter at Porthkerry', showing the church that stands in the park.

In the young person's category, Andrew Whinney was chosen for his light-reflecting mosaic entry 'Snowflake', which caught the eye of the public.

In addition, Michael Goode, arts development officer for the Arts Council of Wales, and Rebecca Spooner, project manager at Women's Arts Association, assisted in selecting the judges' choice winners.

They finally agreed on two winning pieces – 'The Ice Man' by Richard O'Connell, a frosty-faced image in oil pastel; and 'Northern Lights' by Rhian Ellis-Davies, a glazed mixed-media work depicting a traditional robin standing on a rainbow of fragmented glass.

EMAIL US!

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at:*
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Three sell-out performances by Changing Scene talent!

LEFT: The boys and girls of the group, who performed three sell-out shows at the Barry Arts Hall.

THE Changing Scene Dance Company held its spring show at the Barry Arts Hall recently, and it proved a tremendous success, with a sell-out at all three performances.

The boys and girls in their new uniforms displayed a wealth of talent and enthusiasm, from the youngest to the eldest.

The show was both modern and upbeat, with a varied collection of music, song and dance. The audience showed their appreciation as they joined in the well-known lyrics.

The next show *West End to Broadway*, will be held from July 14-17. The books are open for new pupils to join.

Telephone 01446 739702 or 029 2063 3217 for further information.

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6th RHS spring show is back on Cooper's Field

The sixth annual Royal Horticultural Society show returns to the grounds of Cardiff Castle on April 16–18.

It features show gardens created by top Welsh horticultural talent, the popular schools' wheelbarrow competition, talks and demonstrations, expert advice and numerous plants and accessories for sale.

There is also entertainment with nature trails, street entertainers and live music plus a craft village and a taste of Welsh produce in the Cafe´quarter.

Among the show gardens on Cooper's Field is 'Cardiff: Capital for Shopping' a design by the host city council that first appeared at last year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, attracting the attention of actor Bill Nighy and *Gavin and Stacey* star Alison Steadman, along with a Silver Gilt medal.

Urban Sanctuary is an outdoor space designed by Cardiff-based CJ Garden Designs, in conjunction with landscapers Broxton and Moruzzi Landscapes as a comfortable and pleasing space for a late middle aged or retired couple.

This year, 61 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff areas will take part in the schools' wheelbarrow competition.

This gives local youngsters the opportunity to be creative and colourful in learning about the soil - and also the chance to win gardening vouchers for their school.

For further information, contact 020 7649 1885 or www.rhs.or.uk/cardiff

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 613.

- **£2000:** 365330.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not claimed this week.**
- ***£10:*** *432259; 441414; 828403; 608996; 752224; 799545; 526750; 220956; 693548; 879509; 382696; 111647; 781275; 228927; 461853; 167409; 242356; 312053; 412065; 488224.*
- ***£5:*** *652461; 324197; 483082; 844999; 457639; 209159; 585663; 724590; 784459; 807938; 382796; 617905; 879185; 168392; 425010; 307442; 779180; 635877; 454815; 862035; 460114; 204604; 126570; 117219; 515722; 211562; 326524; 845814; 520843; 826452; 209065; 698158; 489864; 569660; 656912; 617919; 435611; 147900; 823897; 382105; 545813; 427953; 443721; 482585; 662429; 171625; 699288; 580047; 327026; 748998; 458453; 307772; 163713; 328559; 596837; 352068; 547509; 645612; 635325; 317415.*

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For Ty Hafan lottery information, telephone 02920 672062.

Bursaries to help young be inspired

THE 'Inspiring the Vale' bursaries scheme is hosting an event at Bar 44, Cowbridge, on Thursday, April 22, to offer young people a chance to learn more about the funding available to help set up in business.

It will include talks from a number of key business entrepreneurs, including a star of Channel 4's *Secret Millionaire*, Vale businessman Paul Ragan, and James Emery, managing director of Barry-based The COS Group, who will speak on successfully running and managing a business.

Run by Creative Rural Communities, a regeneration and economic development initiative led by the Vale Council in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisations, the project has received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

The scheme, established in 2009, aims to give individual or group applicants up to the age of 30, who either currently live in the rural Vale or have previously lived there in the past for five years, the opportunity to set up their own business with a grant of up to £3,000.

Nia Hollins, rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities said: "We are hosting this event to not only celebrate the first anniversary of the scheme but also continue to raise awareness of opportunities that are available out there to young people looking to set up on their own.

"Since launching the scheme 12 months ago, we have helped several young entrepreneurs fulfil their dreams of setting up their own business.

"To date, there has been very little help and support for budding young businessmen and women in the Vale. However, this scheme encourages people to turn their business ideas into reality.

"The funding will give budding entrepreneurs the chance to run their own business, either on a full-time or part time basis, or in some instances even in their spare time.

"If we are to keep employment and investment opportunities high in the Vale, new businesses are essential to ensure we keep the local economy thriving.

"We only have a year left of this funding, so are urging people in the area to take full advantage."

'CUT RED TAPE IN THE VALE'

– says Cowbridge rural business supremo

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Cowbridge-based head of the Welsh rural business association is calling for political parties to commit to cutting red tape that is currently "strangling" a dynamic countryside economy.

The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) Wales chairman, John Homfray said: "The next Government must rise to meet the twin challenges of securing both food production and the environmental benefits that land management provide.

"Protecting the EU budget must be an absolute priority and is the only way to ensure we have food on our tables and the landscape and natural environment that we all want.

"Our members own and manage a vast array of different types of businesses in the countryside which create employment. It is in everyone's interests if these businesses thrive and make a profit."

Mr Homfray added that there was an urgent need for reform of the planning system. It needed to be flexible, transparent and efficient to allow the growth of rural businesses on which so much of the rural economy depends.

He said: "The reform of the planning system is the lowest cost method of stimulating the economy.

"It involves a zero increase in public expenditure and leads to a more dynamic rural economy. The present system is currently strangled by bureaucratic inertia."

Mr Homfray is also concerned that despite recent Government pledges to deliver superfast broadband, one third of the country still does not have adequate access.

The CLA is calling on the next Government to ensure a speed of at least two megabits per second for every rural home and business – before promising to deliver more to areas which currently have access.

The full details of the CLA Manifesto for the Rural Economy can be found at: www.cla.org.uk/Policy_Work/CLA_Manifesto/

Labour's Parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Alana Davies, commented: "As a member of the Labour Party, I am of course a supporter of the European Union, and of the subsidies and support that our membership allows us to give to farmers and others.

"I would certainly wish to see more openness and transparency in the planning process, and I expect this to be the case when the new planning legislation for England & Wales is fully implemented.

"Of course, planning decisions are the responsibility of the local planning authority, in this case the Vale Council, and while it is essential to have a strong framework to work to, decisions on individual applications are made by councillors."

Her Tory opponent, Alun Cairns, said: "The CLA do an excellent job in protecting the environment and supporting rural development and of course, we would want to secure a fair deal of money from Europe.

"We have long called for a more flexible approach to planning, to allow for changes in people's lifestyles. Of course this is a devolved matter and we have said that the current prescriptive planning policy ties local authorities in knots and allows little freedom.

"Conservative policy is to allow for much more freedom to local authorities to protect the environment and to meet local needs for development."

Plaid Cymru's candidate, Dr Ian Johnson, said: "Farming and agriculture play a key role in maintaining food security and mitigating climate change, but I am concerned that changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2013 will have a negative effect upon Welsh agriculture."

He added that Welsh interests could best be protected by a strong Assembly that would argue the case for Wales.

On the subject of planning red tape, he said: "I would also like to remove red tape whenever necessary, so that good schemes can come to fruition quicker.

"However, there is a sting in the tail, which is that proper planning processes must be carried out to prevent over-development in the rural Vale, and avoid a drop in quality of life for residents."

• If you have a view on the story above, or on any other local issue, email us at ggem@internet-today.co.uk or write to the address given on page 2.

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FAMILY SOLICITOR RETURNS TO HER WELSH ROOTS

SOUTH WALES-BASED family law specialist Kathryn McTaggart has experienced some life changes of her own in recent weeks.

As well as a new husband, a stepson and a move back across the Severn Bridge, she has taken a position with 'virtual' law firm Woolley & Co, a specialist family law firm with 19 lawyers based throughout the country.

Throughout her career, Kathryn has worked in London and the South East dealing with divorce and separation issues, as well as related financial matters. She has achieved success in a number of High Court cases involving complex and cutting edge children issues. Kathryn's own personal life has given her a perfect insight into the changing face of modern families and the potential challenges they face.

Kathryn is based just outside of Pontyclun, close to the Vale of Glamorgan and ideally situated in the ever expanding Cardiff commuter belt. Her links with the area go right back to her childhood and she has always maintained a strong and expansive network of family, friends and contacts here in Wales.

Kathryn trained as a collaborative lawyer, committing to the resolution of disputes without Court proceedings where possible and has worked overseas as a family mediator (as well as running a theatre company in her spare time!). She is very much looking forward to using her skills and knowledge working with her local community.

Unlike other lawyers Kathryn works flexible hours and is happy to meet clients wherever suits them (at their place of work or even in a relaxed coffee shop!) and, if preferred, do the majority of work by telephone and email. Kathryn is committed to being up front and transparent with clients, and Woolley & Co offer fixed fees so clients can budget with no nasty surprises.

Kathryn is committed to providing a family law service that acknowledges the trauma of separation whilst remaining forward looking. She is committed to preserving dignity and humour in the worst of situations. Unafraid to be firm, she has first hand knowledge that people often have to continue their relationships long after separation. Believing the proof of the pudding is always in the eating, Kathryn is proud to display her client testimonials on the Woolley & Co website - **www.family-lawfirm.co.uk**

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Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street area profile

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HOW BRIDGEND'S TRADERS KEEP TRADITIONS ALIVE

Not in town centre yet not out of town...but shops (and shoppers) know their place!

***This week**, The GEM takes a look at one of Bridgend's best known shopping areas, from Nolton Street and on to Ewenny Road. The area has been a hub of retail activity for more than 100 years – and a home to many of Bridgend's historic family businesses. Do those traditions still live on in the present day? The answer from traders and local residents alike is a very firm **Yes**!*

• *Ewenny Road, looking back to Nolton Street.*

THERE is plenty of discussion these days about the retail trade, particularly in light of an economic situation that has seen consumers having to tighten their belt.

Questions like –

What are the latest shopping trends?

Are sales in the high street up or down?

Are the supermarkets too powerful?

Not too mention an old favourite, the never-ending arguments about the relative merits of shopping in the town centre or in 'out of town' retail parks.

So, traders who are situated in that 'in between' area between the town centre and out of town could easily start to feel overlooked – unless they have built up a reputation for exceptional personal service.

One such area that fits this bill is the stretch of Nolton Street that heads south towards the Brynteg Comprehensive School, before becoming Ewenny Road.

It may be only about 600 yards long, with an interesting offshoot that is Five Bells Road – but over the years it has been a fine breeding ground for new, young, imaginative businesses.

It is still true today, although someone driving through at night might draw the mistaken conclusion that it is dominated by takeaways.

In fact, the shops along the street offer a fine mix of retail options – from antiques to home furnishings, from jewellery to fashion, and from cycles to groceries.

Scattered around the area are service businesses, including health and beauty, hairdressing, dentistry and herbal medicine.

And when it comes to food, the choice is impressively wide – from delicatessen to evening dining, and from breakfast to a fine choice of takeaways.

Competition between these outlets, of course, keeps prices keen and value for money high.

And competition is not the only factor that means areas such as Nolton Street/ Ewenny Road offer such good value for money.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

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APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street area profile

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Hidden delights take shoppers by surprise

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

The obvious advantage of trading in an 'in between' area is that shop rents are not as high, so the savings can be passed on to the customer.

Also, lower rents and rates mean that it is easier to start up a new business – one perhaps where the proprietor has a bright idea, but needs to start small and allow the fledgling business to grow.

In New York, they talk about 'Broadway' and 'off Broadway'. Broadway is where you find the blockbuster shows with big casts and high costs.

Along 'off Broadway', you will find shows with a new idea, or an original plot. Something that will turn out to be big in future years.

As is the case here, if a business idea is really on the button, it tends to become a springboard for similar outlets.

That successful idea might move on – to be replaced by another budding entrepreneur with a dream.

However, this unique area of Bridgend also features a sizeable number of businesses that have found their niche, have been established for quite some time, and have a solid base of loyal customers.

One thing that should never be under-estimated is that businesses in this part of Bridgend, in the main, are owner-occupied, giving a level of personal service that you will rarely find in an identikit chain store.

They are clear proof that there is no substitute for having a personal stake in a business when it comes to taking care of your customers!

Nolton Street, Ewenny Road and Five Bells Road might, when you are driving to catch the train, or commuting to work, may be an area that you have paid little attention to in the past.

However, take a little trouble and shoppers will find that there is far more there than meets the eye!

PI

ABOVE: MPN Windows is a business that is based in Ewenny Road.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Post Office apology for poor service

POST OFFICE customer care has apologised to Maesteg Town Council for the poor service provided at the town post office.

After complaints were made, the branch manager was contacted and he said that they had run short of cash on two occasions, which was outside his control.

An extra staff member has now joined the branch to reduce queuing times and he has given an assurance that customers are now receiving the level of service they expect.

Ogmore MP Huw Irranca Davies told the town council that the post office was suffering increased pressure due to the closure of the three sub post offices in the town. He is looking into the situation and will report back.

Ogmore AM Janice Gregory has also contacted Royal Mail's Senior Welsh Affairs manager to express her concerns at the complaints raised about the post office in Maesteg.

Police hunt creepers in Caerau

POLICE have been investigating a spate of creeper burglaries in Caerau.

Insp Steve Evans told Maesteg Town Council that these took place at night when thieves had gone around trying doors and if they found one unlocked, entering the premises.

"We have cracked this particular spate but I would warn people to keep their doors locked," he said.

"They are opportunists who find an unlocked door and they are in and out very quickly, taking what they can. They are after things like laptops, cameras and cash.

"They also try car doors and if they find one unlocked, they go in and steal the sat-nav or anything left in the car."

He said that there had also been some burglaries in Maesteg West which are being investigated.

Cowbridge under-15s' superior fitness helps them outlast Pontyclun

COWBRIDGE RFC under-15s travelled to meet their counterparts from Pontyclun RFC last Friday evening, where the balmy conditions confirmed that the long cold winter had indeed been banished.

Sporting new club jerseys, they got off to an ideal start as stand-in hooker Evan Phillips caught an excellent hanging kick-off from Christian Walters to make inroads into a sleepy home defence.

Following two further phases, number eight Ollie Hitchings crashed over to score near the corner; a touch-line conversion from Walters increased the score.

Within minutes, following barging runs from captain Gus MacPherson and second row Matt Goodlad, it was the athletic Hitchings who drove over from a scrum.

Pontyclun decided that they too could produce some attacking rugby and slowly they fought their way back into the game.

Although they started to lose their initial scrummaging advantage, they did maintain a good line-out, and this was a useful source of possession.

Certainly regular jumpers Tom Murray and James Sheekey were missed by the visitors. Fortunately the defence held firm with excellent tackles from Goodlad, Tom Cunnington, and Kieran Smith.

As usual, scrum half Lewis Llewelyn was a threat with his box kicking and darting breaks, and in the centre Freddie Harries enjoyed his best ever game for the club with a number of crashing tackles and some delightful footwork.

The second half was played in a similar vein, with both sides attacking and playing exciting rugby, but with a few final passes going astray the scorer was not troubled for much of the half.

A reorganised back division saw an injured Harries replaced by James Griffiths in the centre, and Sean Boga Lake playing scrum half.

Attacking highlights for Cowbridge during this period were strong runs from Walters, Griffiths, Hari Hitchcock, and Charley Morris, the latter underlying his continuing improvement in both attack and defence.

Eventually, with the home side visibly wilting, the fitter Cowbridge boys started to assert their superiority, and with props Ken Rodgers and Lloyd Stock gaining the upper hand at the scrum, the game ended with a glut of possession for the visitors.

The backs started playing in seven-a-side mode and clever play from Rhys Griffin and Morris almost put the latter over to extend the lead.

Eventually a spectacular backs movement saw flying winger Hitchcock round his opposite number and the covering defence to touch down under the posts.

From an attacking scrum, the inevitable happened, with Hitchings picking up and driving over to complete his hat trick and conclude the scoring at 24-0 to Cowbridge.

As is the case for most under-15 sides, both teams had been depleted during the season with Schools Districts call ups, and the obvious rustiness showed,

Cowbridge Team : C. Morris, H Hitchcock, C Walters, F Harries, J Griffiths, R Griffin, L Llewelyn, S Boga Lake, O Hitchings, G MacPherson (captain), T Cunnington, M Goodlad, K Smith, L Stock, E Phillips, K Rodgers.

WI members prepare for a very busy year

PENLLYN and DISTRICT WI NEWS

THE monthly meeting on April 6 in Penllyn Village Hall was opened by president Novello Peters.

Members were pleased to welcome back Awen Evans and Gill Petty, but were sad to hear of Val Caple's accident, and hoped she will be well again very soon.

The minutes, read by Jane Exell, were accepted and signed by the president. Members admired the new curtains in the hall, and Jill Watkins was thanked for all her hard work in making them.

Information was given regarding forthcoming events, including the group meeting at Colwinston on May 18, the Federation Quiz on June 13, the Glamorgan dinner with speaker Roy Noble at the Hi Tide, Porthcawl, on September 30, the annual walk on June 29, walking Treasure Hunt on September 21, Hi Tide dinner with Owen Money on October 15, and craft fayre on November 27.

The first craft meeting (to prepare for the Glamorgan Show and our own craft fayre) will be on April 27 from 7pm - 9pm in the village hall.

Members were reminded to take photographs of Glamorgan bridges to enter in the competition for the Federation Calendar 2011, and informed that the photos must be of good quality to be considered for inclusion.

Members were very pleased to welcome Chris Dale, who entertained them with voice and guitar. He provided a varied selection of folk music, old and new, with themes of love and war, and gave interesting historical facts and anecdotes relating to the music.

He was thanked by Novello Peters. The competition and raffle prizes were presented.

The next meeting will be held in Penllyn Village Hall on Tuesday, May 4, at 7.30 pm. The speaker Jill Watkins is introducing us to 'Willow Weaving'.

New members always warmly welcomed.For further information contact Novello (01656 674191) or Marjorie (01656 647115).

TV's Justina's delight at success of charity ride

ABOVE: Justina praised William and Rachel Pugh from Llangan, and Rachel is pictured (centre) with her children Tom and Henry.

ITV newsreader Justina Simpson was delighted last Sunday at the success of her charity beach canter in Ogmore-by-Sea..

However, she was keen to thank some friends who had played a big part in making the event go so well, including the Pugh family from Llangan.

(For a full report and pictures of the event, see page 22).

ABOVE: Justina riding Topper along the beach.

ABOVE: Henry Pugh on Barney Rubble.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

New law could change way we use computers

CAN anyone read your mind? New legislation seems to think so.

The Digital Economy Bill was given its Third Reading by the House of Commons in the "Wash Up" on April 7.

The Wash Up is the name given to the parliamentary scurry of horse-trading to complete the progress of bills into law between the announcement of an election and the actual cessation of parliamentary business.]

The Bill is now complete, except for Royal Assent to pass it into law.

It covers a range of matters to do with the digital economy. You might agree with some measures, but they have all been passed, in spite of many potential problems that were pointed out in the meagre two hours allowed for the debate.

It is notable that many proposals for improvement were dropped under pressure of time. There is a vague undertaking to look at them further in the new parliament, but that will be after it has become law.

Much of the time was spent on the question of copyright.

Certainly there is a problem with the stealing (for that is what it is) of intellectual property (*musical composition being the most common*).

Under our present copyright system, the composer or author owns the copyright and they are going to be deprived of royalties if their work is pirated.

The existing law allows for redress, but is ineffective if the copyright owner has to sue each individual for damages for infringement.

It is essentially unenforcable at that level.

The bill is intended primarily to catch anyone exploiting the infringement for financial gain.

There is a problem: the offender could be offering his wares from a web site on the other side of the globe. (Of course, any individual makes a financial gain if he doesn't pay the price.)

In the meantime, if you are downloading illegally, the copyright owner can have your IP address and can ask your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to stop you.

After a couple of warning letters, the ISP will be required to terminate your service. The awkward bit is that you could be entirely innocent.

A small business could lose its service because it is being used by an unauthorised person for downloads. It could happen to you if you do not protect your wireless hub from being hi-jacked.

And here's the killer; a service can be terminated if it is the means for copyright infringement in the past, present or likely to be in the future!

All internet traffic will need to be read to establish present offences, but who reads your mind about your future intentions?

The whole model of copyright and the reward for creation may need re-thinking. If the rewards diminish, so will the production and everyone will be the poorer.

Pay a reasonable price to the copyright holder. Paying nothing is rarely reasonable.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27. It will comprise forums on topics of immediate interest. Visitors and new members always welcome.

For more information call 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND

News from the Boverton WI

AFTER the usual business, members were treated to a very interesting talk and demonstration on Clarins makeup, by Val from Lloyds' Chemist in Cowbridge.

She gave a brief resumé of how it started and the importance of cleansing before making up, stressing that make-up is fun and really does improve the feeling of well being!

She didn't suggest she could make people look younger, but by using subtle make-up, especially on the eyes, they can look much livelier!

Liz Lewis gave the vote of thanks and also won the competition for the best spring bloom. Wendy Hart won the raffle.

The next meeting is 'Resolutions' and is on May 13.

New members and visitors are always welcome.

EMAIL US!

● *WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at:* ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

OUT of TOWN FEATURE

Pontyclun, Talbot Green & Neighbouring Areas

Small town shops that are the beating heart of a community

ONE major impact of the recession has been to change people's shopping habits.

Lots of families are now choosing to shop locally and avoid the temptation of aisle upon aisle of ready meals and other expensive food stuffs at a time when they are having to watch their budgets.

It's at times like these that small town centres like Pontyclun and Talbot Green really come into their own.

Here, shoppers have a choice of good quality produce from butchers, greengrocers, bakeries, delicatessens and the like, without encountering the pile-em-high mentality of many supermarkets which dazzle and bemuse shoppers with so much choice that it's often impossible to tell if something is actually a bargain.

Is the three-for-the-price-of-two offer really a bargain, if you end up throwing away half of the food because you cannot eat it all in time?

It may have been cheaper just to buy the amount you need and can actually eat. That's where small shops win out. In a greengrocer's you can buy one or two apples, three or four tomatoes – in fact, any quantity you like. Nothing is pre packed and pre –weighed.

At the local butcher's, you can get a single chop and a few rashers of bacon – the right amount for you.

And in these days of increasing consciousness about food waste and its consequences on the environment in terms of landfill use, that's an important consideration.

As is food miles and carbon footprints – although 10 years ago nobody had heard of either! It was just second nature then to buy foods that were locally produced.

It is the supermarkets who have introduced us to out-of-season fruit and vegetables flown thousands of miles from places like Chile and South Africa.

Far better to do what our ancestors did and eat foods in season that come from the locality.

And it's not just food that small towns can offer – in the case of Pontyclun and Talbot Green, there is also a reasonable choice of other shops catering for people's needs.

There are shops in the two towns that sell clothing, household goods, gifts, flowers and there are chemists where you can get your toiletries and much more besides. There are also many services available.

The other point about small towns is the better service you get from people who often own their shops, and who are keen to please and quick to respond to local demand.

And there is also the satisfaction you get from supporting communities and keeping town centres vibrant.

The world – and Wales in particular – would be a much poorer place if all our little towns lost their shops and people were reduced to shopping only in supermarkets.

Community life would suffer because people would no longer see each other to catch up on the news.

So, support our small towns in order to keep communities alive and to save yourself money in the process. It's a win-win situation!

JAYNE ISAAC

ABOVE: Pontyclun – where shoppers can get away from the large supermarket bustle to a friendly town with a village feel.

LEFT: Pontyclun offers an impressive range of shops for the discerning shopper.

ABOVE: Talbot Green – behind its quiet exterior is a deceptively lively business community.

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A happy customer gives her local shop a testimonial

I WAS in Pontyclun the other day, and you should have seen butcher John Hughes's window.

It had pasties, pies and faggots – all beautifully displayed. I went in to purchase what I needed for the week, and there was a long fridge with all the raw meats to tickle the taste buds.

On the other side was another fridge with a great selection of cooked meats. On top of the fridges were jars of whatever customers wanted in the way of mustards and relishes.

Everything was so clean and fresh, and with a personal service that is second to none!

Next time you are in Pontyclun, why not pop in and sample what John Hughes has got to offer. *You won't be disappointed.*

T Warner, Llanharry

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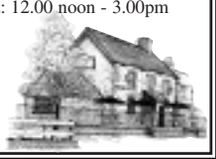

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Local church takes on a new (distinctly Welsh) lease of life!

PORTHKERRY Road Methodist church is set to have a new lease of life – thanks to a new group of enthusiasts with exciting plans for this iconic building.

Left to right: Karen Standed, Suzannah Delaney, Tim Pearce (treasurer), Sian Brown, Dorothy Connell (secretary), Nic Hodges, Ian Johnson, Mark Hooper, Ashley Brown (chair).

The church is currently up for sale and the group is working towards buying the building and converting it into a medium-sized community arts venue for Barry and the Vale, which will also be distinctly Welsh.

Ashley Brown, chair of Canolfan Porthceri Centre (CPC), described the plans as "a perfect way forward for this lovely church and for the people of the Vale.

"We intend to work with plans drawn up some years ago for the installation of a mezzanine floor, giving an events and performance space upstairs and a suite of multifunctional rooms downstairs. There would also be a café and bookshop – a bit like a cross between the Gate and Chapter in Cardiff.

"Another strand of our proposal is for a distinctively Welsh flavour to the building – while it won't be predominantly Welsh language – you will know you're in Wales when you come into the centre.

"We want to create somewhere accessible to and reflective of the whole community of Barry and the Vale."

The group argues that there is a need for something in between the Memorial Hall and community centres where a range of cultural events including theatre, cinema, music, dance, comedy, cabaret and exhibitions could be staged upstairs with ample opportunity for smaller events, meetings and classes.

The CPC group was formed after an open meeting in the church last month and the members are working hard on plans to raise money through their own efforts and also to apply for grants.

If you want to support CPC, join their group on facebook – canolfan porthceri centre, or contact the group secretary on 01446 744914 : dot.connell@virgin.net

DC

It's the last chance to view Barry Theatre Royal cinema show

AN exhibition on the history of Barry's Theatre Royal has been extended until April 30.

ABOVE: The Theatre Royal exhibition will continue at Victoria Park's 'Room in the Park' until April 30.

Paul Sutton of the Save Our Cinema Association (SOCA), told The GEM:

"The exhibition is being held at Victoria Park's 'Room in the Park' and we have been delighted with the response of people – it's run has now been extended until April 30.

"We have received lots of comments in the visitors' book, with many people expressing their regret that the Theatre Royal closed."

The exhibition includes behind the scenes photographs, posters and press cuttings covering a period from 1910 to the present day. A wall has even been set aside to display children's artwork inspired by a SOCA competition.

Paul emphasised: "You don't have to be a cinema lover to find the exhibition interesting. For people who are interested in the history of Barry, it is worth a visit."

The cinema, and the Theatre Royal itself, have long held a fascination for Paul, who was first taken along to the Barry landmark building in the sixties.

"My parents took me to *Goldfinger* one Sunday evening. It was packed. Another vivid Theatre Royal memory is of going to a double bill which featured *633 Squadron* and *The Great Escape*. We went in a 6pm and didn't get out until 10.30pm!"

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2010/00312/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Extension to existing bungalow and alterations to boundary wall alongside Windsor Terrace Lane
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Beeches, Windsor Terrace Lane, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth

Conservation Area Consent
Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2010/00302/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition of existing derelict cottage (to be replaced by proposed new low energy dwelling and garage)
Location:/Lleoliad:	Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Llancarfan

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2010/00294/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use from offices (B1 use) to day nursery (D1 use)
Location:/Lleoliad:	The Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting The Old Hall and 66 High Street (The Market Place Restaurant) both Grade II Listed Buildings
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2010/00328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of double storey extensions, car port and conversion of existing garage
Location:/Lleoliad:	Sweetings, Llanquian Road, Aberthin
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Sweetings, a Grade II Listed Building

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2009/01336/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Provision of caravan touring park including conveniences, pitches, public open space etc.
Location:/Lleoliad:	1, New Barn, Flemingston

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk

Dated: 15 April, 2010

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation

The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry. CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 15 Ebrill, 2010

Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri. CF63 4RT

STARTLING EVIDENCE THAT THROWS NEW LIGHT ON THE UNDERGROUND TUBE CRASH

UNDERSTANDING MOORGATE:
by Anthony Bright

THE cause of the 1975 London Underground tube train disaster at Moorgate station became a mystery when the official who conducted the Government Inquiry into the cause of the crash concluded, in his 1976 Railway Accident Report on Moorgate that:

"... the cause of this accident lay entirely in the behaviour of Motorman Newson during the final minute before the accident occurred.

"Whether his behaviour was deliberate, or whether it was the result of a suddenly arising physical condition not revealed as a result of post-mortem examination, there is not sufficient evidence to establish – but I am satisfied that no part of the responsibility for the accident rests with any other person and that there was no fault or condition of the train, track, or signalling that in any way contributed to it".

Having been a tube train driver at the same time of the disaster, I was never happy with that conclusion.

So, a little over two years ago, while I was reading a book on railway accidents, in Penarth library, I came across an account of Moorgate.

The account relied upon the railway accident report for its source of information and offered nothing new.

The cause of Moorgate was still a mystery. I therefore decided to scrutinise all the available evidence in an attempt to find an actual cause.

The result of this is '*Understanding Moorgate*', so titled because I take the reader through the workings of the Underground system as it existed at the time of the disaster, in order to assist the reader to understand the relevance of the evidence that was withheld or not fully pursued.

An example is that there was nothing wrong with the train equipment, based on the evidence that Motorman Newson had prepared and brought into service the train that crashed.

If he had had any concerns he would have reported them before bringing the train into service or, when in service, on the three trips he drove the train to Moorgate before the fatal trip.

Moreover, another motorman had driven the train on its first trip to Moorgate and found the train equipment, especially the two braking systems, to be working normally.

The withheld evidence suggests, however, that the train that Newson was driving was from an unofficial changeover train north to Drayton Park and, unknown to him, this train was overdue in being transferred to Neasden Depot for maintenance and had defects on the braking systems, including the 'deadman's handle'.

When Newson drove this train for the first time to Moorgate it crashed.

Other evidence suggests further improprieties, including a malicious prank affecting the braking systems. The prank may even have caused Newson to suffer an epileptic seizure.

Evidence is usually withheld to distort the truth. Perhaps '*Understanding Moorgate*' will lead to a different conclusion in a revised railway accident report on the tragedy.

- ***The author of this article is a former tube driver on the London Underground.***

Vale heritage coalition has launched its new website

THE group set up to lobby for a Heritage Centre for the Vale launched its website last week so that the coalition of local historians can spread their message via the internet.

Spokesman Dr Jonathan Hicks said: "Owing to the hard work of coalition members Ade Pitman and Steve Williams, we now have a professionally-designed website.

"It is already attracting visits from people throughout Wales, and indeed across the world, who all share our interest in the history of this great county. It is yet another step in our mission to bring a purpose-built building to the area which can tell the story of our ancestors. "

The home page of the site sets out the coalition's aims and vision. There is a link to their 'blog' and Facebook page, biographies of the group's members and sections on the history of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Dr Hicks added: "The coalition is inviting GEM readers to log on and visit this great resource.

"There are opportunities to get involved with the group's campaign via the links on the website and to contact them if you would like to support their work."

The website address is: http://glamorganheritage.org or search for 'Glamorgan Heritage'.

HOLTON ROAD IS HOTTING UP

Holton Road businesses give city shops a real run for their money

WITH well over 100 successful businesses operating in Holton Road, the busy Barry shopping area can claim to be an economic mainstay of the Vale.

John Lewis, who owns JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop, has strong ideas on what has enabled local concerns to weather the worst of the recession.

He told The GEM: "The reason that we have survived is because we have kept in touch with what our customers want, and listened to them!

"Businesses that have failed to do so have suffered.

"Last April and May, when many shops were finding it hard, we weren't quiet and were still doing business."

John has traded in the Bassett area of Holton Road for nine years, so he has seen a few ups and downs in the economy. "What we have noticed is that people are a little more careful with their money. We're a smaller business and tend to be more competitive than some bigger shops.

"We're getting more customers from Cardiff now because of the keener prices."

Another boost has been that Weston Square at the bottom of Holton Road is open to traffic from Cardiff Road after being closed for a number of months through the winter for work to prevent flooding.

John said the strength of the business was in its staff and a high standard of customer service:

He said: "All the staff have the technical knowledge required and know what they are talking about.

"Whenever people leave the shop they have the right thing, or we have pointed them in the right direction."

ABOVE: The refurbished town hall of Barry is a landmark focal point for the Holton Road area.

A Crafty Look is definitely worth a visit

A Crafty Look is a friendly local family-run business, which was established almost a year ago in Thomson Street.

Since then, the business has grown to a point where new premises were needed to allow for further growth, so 19 Holton Road, Barry, was acquired.

We opened our new premises in February and have been busy ever since! We have expanded into the embroidery and personalisation market, with a number of repeat customers.

We cater for individual items, as well as hundreds of the same item if required.

We also print and embroider baby items, such as babygros, blankets and car sunshades.

Next time you are looking for something special, why not give us a try?

A Crafty Look

19 Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4HA
01446 421734

Due to the success of the shop, we have moved from Thompson Street to bigger premises at:

19 Holton Road, Barry
(Next to Domino's Pizza)

You can still buy all of the items that you have presently been able to buy, but we now stock a larger range of products

Why not call in and see for yourself the many items that we have to offer

We are also the only embroidery company in Barry!!!

Embroidered work wear a speciality

We can embroider onto almost all kinds of clothing, as well as print onto all sorts of other items, such as mugs, mouse mats, clocks, aprons, tea towels, sunshades etc.

One-offs to hundreds of items!

Please feel free to ask for a quote!

Part exchange your pram?

AFTER five years, Ruckleys mother and baby shop is well established as a one-stop children's destination store, stocking everything for mother and baby from prams and pushchairs, to clothing, shoes, christening wear and school uniform.

Due to the economic climate and changes in customer purchases, Ruckleys are now launching their nearly-new part exchange department where, just like the motor industry, mums will be able to browse a range of the latest must-have prams and pushchairs, including new, used and part exchange.

As always, all products come with a guarantee, giving you peace of mind, and with easy payment plan options, you'd be mad not to check them out!

For more information, call into the store, see the website, or ring the part exchange hotline on 07894 233330.

Ruckleys is open from 9.30am-5.30pm every day, and 11am-4pm Sundays; 98 Holton Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan; telephone 01446 700006 www.ruckleys.co.uk

For Mothers & Mothers to be...

- School Gingham dresses all colours £7.99
- Crocs now in
- Part exchange on prams
- Summer buggies – hurry!
- Selection of parasols and canopies

Spaciously set over two floors, Ruckleys is the one stop children's destination store

Ruckleys
98, Holton Road Barry CF63 4HJ
Tel: 01446 700006

To Celebrate
NATIONAL PET MONTH
3rd April to 3rd May 2010

PETS 'R' US
REGENT STREET BARRY

*are inviting children to get involved by running an art competition. Simply submit a drawing or painting around the theme **"A Happy Pet I Know".** Hand in or post your entry, with your name, address, telephone number and age to:*

PETS 'R' US
1a Regent Street, Barry, CF62 8DS

The winning picture will receive a **£25 voucher** *to spend at* **PETS 'R' US**

CLOSING DATE: 31 MAY 2010

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• Beko • Range Master • Leisure • Creda • White Knight • Stoves • Candy •

HOLTON ROAD IS HOTTING UP

ABOVE:
Proprietors Tracy Kemp and Joanna Spear have been running Tan y Hyde Tanning and Beauty Salon for the last four years.

tan y hyde
Unisex Tanning and Beauty

- Waxing
- Facials
- Lashes
- Brows
- Nails
- Bridal Packages
- Massage
- Make Up

TANNING
Upright and Laydown Sunbeds and Californian Spray Tan.

3D Semi Permanent Lashes by A H Francis - Only £52.00

Harley Street trained beauty nurse Sarah Williams for Botox and Chemical Peels - 3 areas only £250

46 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HD
Tel. 01446 745483

La Cucina – Keeping Holton Road customers well satisfied

LA CUCINA, the hottest café on Holton Road, is a very popular venue, with a constant flow of customers all day.

Many shoppers meet up with friends for an ice cold frappé or a milk shake with an Italian touch.

A firm favourite is the traditional breakfast or bagels with cream cheese and bacon.

Lunch times offer a wonderful array of paninis and sandwiches with salami and chorizo fillings.

The homemade Spanish omelettes are a must this summer, together with summer salads of ham, avocado and Caesar salad.

Don't forget the wonderful selection of cakes – Italian glazed almond cream cake, carrot cake and chocolate fudge cake.

They are the perfect accompaniment to a delicious cup of coffee!

La Cucina Cafe
51 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY
Ferda and his team welcome you!
Open for Breakfasts from 9am
Hot and Cold Dishes, Paninis, Freshly Baked Baguettes.
Healthy Options and a range of Delicious Cakes.
A choice of hand made Coffees and Hot Chocolates.
Grab and Go Section with many meal deals.
Ideal for ladies who lunch, busy shoppers, business meetings or just a chat with friends.
OPEN: 9AM - 5.00 PM
MONDAY - SATURDAY
Tel. 01446 722024

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We are cheaper than most supermarkets
NEW WHISKAS SIMPLY 12 pouches only £2.50
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Large selection of NEW DOG BEDS now in
Delivery service available
Visit our stall every week at Barry Tuesday Market
1a REGENT STREET
BARRY, CF62 8DS. 01446 722 228

A great family-owned business

BEING the oldest established family-owned shoe repair business in Barry, Frangoulis has seen a lot of changes.

When opened in 1950, the original owner George Frangoulis, soon had a reputation for taking on the most challenging shoe repairs, and made to measure the very best in handmade shoes!

This legacy continued when Nick Frangoulis took over, not only maintaining these high standards, but expanding his services.

Key cutting was introduced in the early 1970s, and this has developed and grown over the years and the shop is now one of the largest key stockists, including the cutting and programming of chipped car keys.

As well as making shoes, Frangoulis stock the very best in British-made quality shoes with brands such as Barkers, Cheaney, Loakes, Trickers, to name but a few.

The shop also stocks a variety of high quality leather goods – including wallets, purses, passport and travel card holders.

It has an extensive range of trophies which can also be engraved.

Other products and services have been included, such as watch batteries and dancewear.

Services By
FRANGOULIS
No 4 Thompson St, Barry
Tel: 01446 739823
- **High Quality Shoe Repairs** The more challenging the better.
- **Stockists of the very Best in British made shoes** Barkers, Cheaney, Loakes.
- **All types of key cutting** From the standard house key to high security. Also chipped car keys.
- **Full computerised engraving service** Personalise that special gift or award. We have a large range of ZIPPO lighters.

A full complement of dyes, polishes and protective dressings in stock.

JPL Sound offers an 'unrivalled' music service

ALL too often, shoppers from both Barry and the Vale seem to think that Holton Road only stretches from the Civic Offices up to the multi-storey car park opposite Holton Road School.

In fact, it carries up a lot further, and then all the way down to Weston Square.

Why not try visiting the top end of Holton Road, where you will find JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop, plus lots of other specialist shops?

It is the leading music shop in the Vale, where all the staff are not only helpful, friendly and knowledgeable, but are all also experienced technicians and musicians.

JPL Sound has steadily grown over the years to become one of the largest outdoor PA company in south Wales, hiring all types of sound systems to cultural, leisure and sporting events throughout Wales and the west country. They range from small local events right up to international sporting fixtures.

There is a determination to offer a personal and high-quality service by Barry Music Shop.

Whether you are looking for a new instrument or to part-exchange an existing one, right through to expert repairs on guitars, amplifiers and all pro-audio equipment, the shop can help you out.

It has always offered an unrivalled service in making up bespoke pro-audio leads while you wait, as well as stocking the biggest selection of audio, AV connectors and leads in south Wales.

Please don't forget even the simple things like batteries. Everything is stocked from the basic sizes in alkaline batteries right through to button and watch batteries (fitting service also) and rechargeable batteries, all at very competitive prices.

Please call in at any time; you will not be disappointed!

JPL SOUND
The Barry Music Shop
THE LOCAL MUSICAL EXPERTS!
GREAT SAVINGS ON OUR PRICES ALL YEAR ROUND
QUALITY GUITARS FROM BUDGET TO PROFESSIONAL
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Book your requirements quickly - we supply all over South Wales
Expert Guitar Repairs in Store
Set Ups - Intonation - Electronics - Modifications etc.
We stock a full range of Guitar Parts for the DIY enthusiast
267 Holton Road, Barry
(Weston Hill End!) Tel: 722711

Still Images on the move!

STILL IMAGES was opened in December 2009 by Mark Osman. This photographic studio is situated within Chris John Framing on Thompson Street.

Mark said: "I have been overwhelmed by the number of customers requiring wedding and portrait photography since I opened.

"There has also been demand for photographic make-over sessions. The Hair and Beauty Den opposite can complete the hair and make-up for £25 and Still Images photograph the stunning results.

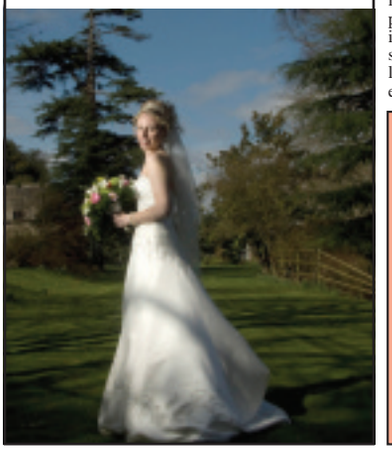
"I also do portfolio work for models, and lots of family shots – including the newly-arrived babies!

"Models will receive a free image of their choice (6 x 4) and a free portrait session. Only a limited number of places are available.

"We also offer a free 20 x 16 print with any wedding package booked by the end of May, if you mention The GEM!'

Please feel free to pop in to the studio, or give Still Images a call on 07547 202501.

Still Images
48b Thompson St, Barry
07547 202501
01446 420165



Follow all the latest goings-on in Holton Road and the surrounding areas by logging onto The GEM online at ***www.barry-today.co.uk***

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HOLTON ROAD IS HOTTING UP

Plan ahead with Passmores on 'Lasting Plan of Attorney'

PASSMORES
PASSMORES SOLICITORS
MAKE AN LPA NOW
– Can you afford not to?

Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.

For more information please call:
Carli Evans on 01446 721000
or by email ce@passmores.com.

SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY
21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign – to encourage all people to plan ahead and avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in october 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enables a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority.

This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans, of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements, can contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000, or by email at ce@passmores.com

Bodywise offers latest in beauty treatments

BODYWISE was established more than 15 years ago and offers a wide range of beauty treatments in a relaxing, modern salon.

The salon provides a totally tranquil haven – essential for the complete relaxation of holistic therapies and facial treatments.

Jackie Howells and the team of therapists and salon aides research the beauty industry to find the latest and most up-to-date treatments and equipment to continuously introduce new beauty treatments.

Bodywise has gained the 'Investors in People' award. Jackie provides the best working conditions and maximum training opportunities for all her staff, which she feels are important for job satisfaction for the staff – which will ensure a first class service for customers.

Bodywise uses and sells the first class skincare Darphin by Estee Lauder, Creative Nail Design products and varnishes, China Glaze Varnishes, California Tan sunless tanning, Amphora Aromatherapy Oils and Australian Organics body and face products.

Bodywise frequently provides special offers on other treatments and products – so look out for regular promotions.

Bodywise Beauty Salon
We offer a full range of beauty treatments to pamper and beautify you…
- California Tan Spray Tanning
- Darphin specialised facials
- Creative nail extensions
- Arasys inch loss treatment
- Holistic therapies
- Make-up/Bridal packages
- Waxing and more

54 HOLTON ROAD, BARRY Tel. 01446 722211
www.bodywisebeauty.co.uk

ALLPETS
Food and accessories for dogs, cats other small animals, birds & reptiles plus all your requirements for aquariums and ponds

Reptiles - Live Food £2 a tub or 3 for £5
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255/257 Holton Road, Barry
01446 732617
Don't forget to visit our new shop!
Barry Pet Store
101 High Street, Barry
Tel. 01446 734040

HQ2 offer you the very best

ABOVE:
The friendly team at HQ2 The Salon look forward to seeing you.

HQ2 The Salon, situated on Holton Road, is Barry's only 4-star salon awarded by The Good Salon Guide.

HQ2 pride themselves on quality, using only the best products and services.

All staff are trained to level–3 qualification and are regularly updated on new techniques and products.

Balmain hair extensions have proved to be very popular and are offered at very competitive prices.

Also available at HQ2 is chemical hair straightening, colour, restyle, bridal packages and gent's hair styling.

For a friendly approach to hairdressing, call into HQ2 The Salon or call 01446 400102 for an appointment.

HQ² The Salon
★★★★ 4-Star Salon
Specialising in Balmain Hair Extensions, Colouring and Opti Smooth Chemical Hair Straightening.
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Paul Gentile's expert Troll kits advice

DON'T miss Sunday, April 18, when customers will be viewing the new limited edition Troll kits at Paul Gentile, The Capitol Centre, Cardiff.

The eye-catching sweet floral collection kits are available in two distinctive colourways, decorative pinks and vivid, vibrant blues.

The beads are individually decorated and blend beautifully together to create an irresistible combination.

There are also the new dazzling delicate hanging Tassel Beads – beautiful beads inspired by the delightful colours and patterns of a garden blooming in spring!

A spokesman said: "Join us for light refreshments, a free raffle and expert advice on your trolls."

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Drew Barrymore's directorial debut is Whip sharp, funny and is hugely entertaining

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHILE Hollywood seems to excel in stories of performers plumbing the depths before reaching the highs, there are very few whose career, and indeed life, trajectory has matched that of Drew Barrymore.

Having shone as Gert in *ET*, Barrymore proceeded to match bad career choices with drug and alcohol abuse.

Having got both her life and career back on track in the mid-90s, Barrymore has firmly established herself as one of the most influential women in cinema.

Having taken production credits on the likes of *Charlie's Angels*, *Donnie Darko* and *He's Just Not That Into You* and built up an acting resumé that balances mainstream choices with off-kilter material, it seemed a given that she would turn her attention to the director's chair, and her debut outing, *Whip It*, now hits screens.

Ellen Page plays Bliss Cavendar, a girl whose life in a small Texas town consists of beauty pageants and working at a local diner. When she finds a flyer advertising a local roller derby event, she is mesmerised by what she sees, and decides to sign up for the Hurl Scouts team, featuring such players as Maggie Mayhem (Kristen Wiig), Smashley Simpson (Barrymore) and Rosa Sparks (Eve).

However, with Bliss' mother (Marcia Gay Harden) so keen for her daughter to excel at the pageants, and her new-found love for roller-skates, Bliss must try and balance her new life and existing one...

While many of the stars of the past have taken their skills into the sphere of directing (with Clint Eastwood arguably the most prominent and successful), today's stars seem a touch more reticent to step behind the camera.

The likes of Cruise, Crowe and Smith have rarely discussed the thought, while Tom Hanks, whose directorial debut was released in 1996, has now only just got round to starting on his second.

Given Drew Barrymore's growing prominence as a producer, her move behind the camera was highly likely – whether she would be any good at it was a different matter entirely.

Fortunately for Barrymore, and anyone who goes to watch *Whip It*, she proves to be rather adept at the directing lark, creating an enjoyable film high on sass and fizz yet with enough substance behind it to make for a more satisfying watch.

Barrymore has obviously absorbed the work of directors such as Jason Reitman, whose lo-fi aesthetic is clearly a huge influence on this film, yet Barrymore shows a dexterity which is more than the sum of her influences.

She deliberately keeps her direction low-key, but draws a great deal of comedy, pathos and excitement from that, handling the film's narrative needs with careful aplomb.

While the roller derby scenes bustle with hard-hitting action and excitement, Barrymore is more concerned with the importance of the story and the characters – even the most peripheral of characters are invested with time.

It is an auspicious debut that shows a keen talent in its earliest stages.

Of course, it does help when you are gifted a cast of such strength and versatility as the one assembled here – a cast that performs just how you would expect, with skill and style.

Ellen Page may be marking herself out as the alternative female lead of choice, but she shows a real confidence and lightness of touch, taking the character of Bliss and offering a performance that captures a character discovering themselves, coming from under the umbrella of their family and standing on their own two feet.

Page has enough charisma and wits to be a superb lead-in into the story and her turn is one of the many highlights on show, showcasing her ability for both comedy and for the dramatic.

Surrounding Page are a selection of performances that either reaffirm an actor's ability or showcase an up and coming performer.

In the former camp, the likes of Barrymore (whose more-or-less cameo turn is played for laughs), Daniel Stern, as Bliss' father, and Juliette Lewis, taking time out from being a rock star to play the Iceman to Page's Maverick in a role that works well, all put in strong shifts, bringing a pleasing degree of skill to their turns.

It is Marcia Gay Harden who is the standout from this crowd, the always-dependable actress lighting up the screen as Bliss' mother. Beneath the beauty pageant sheen lies a decency to do what is best for her family, and Harden really gets under the skin of a character that could easily have fallen into type.

In the 'up n' coming' section, Kristen Wiig shows she has the ability to break out from her recurring role on US TV's *Saturday Night Live* with a turn that is as much about humour as it is about being a sisterly shoulder for Bliss as she enters the world of roller derby.

Alia Shawkat (who a minority will remember from *Arrested Development*) does the best friend role to perfection, while a special mention should also go to Andrew Wilson, brother of Owen and Luke; were it not for the large amount of oestrogen on show, Wilson's Razor would come pretty much close to stealing the show with his dry asides – yet as it is, he has to settle for being part of what is a superbly strong cast with nary a poor turn.

Shauna Cross' screenplay is adapted from her own book, and it shows the faith she has in the material to allow her story to flow so well. While it plays like a typical underdog sports film, there is also the relationships between Bliss and various people around her which works on a whole other level, plus the typical 'coming of age' element.

It all adds up to a strongly feminine story, but one that is played as broadly as possible; it may be heavy on 'girl power', but its universal themes means the film plays well regardless of gender.

If there are faults, then they are merely first-time wobbles; the story is played out slightly too long, starting to drag somewhat towards the end, while Barrymore's good taste in music may be present and correct, but there is a little too much emphasis on soundtracking every scene.

Not a huge issue when you have the likes of The Runaways, The Breeders and The Go! Team as the background, but there are points where you want what's on the screen to hold up by itself as opposed to what is on the soundtrack.

Despite that, *Whip It* is a hugely entertaining film, enjoyable to watch with a sharp, realistic script that works extremely well amd bodes well for Drew Barrymore's behind-camera future.

VERDICT – A pleasing slice of celluloid, *Whip It* is an auspicious debut for Drew Barrymore, who shows a wonderful for direction.

Coupled with a strong script and superb turns from the likes of Ellen Page, Marcia Gay Harden and Kristen Wiig, *Whip It* is a film high on verve and excitement, yet with a storyline grounded in reality, makes for a compelling watch.

Recommended.

Pop Quiz in the Park...

THE Pop Quiz in the Park Hotel in Barry is looking for someone with a good memory!

As the quiz has been going since the mid-1980s, the organiser, Brian Enos, was arranging a Silver jubilee event for this year.

Some of the 'regulars', however, insist that the quiz, is, in fact, 26 or 27 years old! Brian remembers that he compiled and hosted the first quiz in order to settle a friendly argument between some of the regulars of the popular west-end pub, and it has just continued since then.

Other than the odd break for Christmas, the quiz has been held just about every week and has seen off at least four landlords!

They have, in the past, completed several 24-hour events in aid of local charities, and although those days are behind them, the quiz continues to attract its regulars. Brian is looking for anyone from the 'early' days to contact him, the pub, or The GEM to confirm when the quiz started.

Brian thinks that even if it's only 25 years, then they must hold the record for the "longest-running pop quiz in the world – ever!"

The music featured includes all pop music from 1950s to current releases, and usually involves teams trying to identify tracks from 'snippets' played. Each quiz usually has a picture round and trivia questions.

New teams are welcome (any number in a team) If anyone would like to take part (or even compile a quiz), the quiz is held every Tuesday in the Park Hotel upstairs lounge, starting at 8.30pm.

There are no entry fees or prizes because, as Brian explained: "I started charging a nominal entry fee, with the money collected going back in prizes, but this made the quiz too competitive, so now we just play for fun – it doesn't really matter if you come last!"

Once the age of the quiz is established, it's planned to invite all the music fans who have attended over the years to a celebratory event.

Anyone with information, should telephone Brian on 01446 739133.

Rotary club will check out your blood pressure

LOCAL residents are being offered the chance to get their blood pressure checked for free on Rotary's 'Stroke and Health Awareness Day', this Saturday (April 17).

A Rotary mobile unit will be parked in Morrison's car park at Barry and blood pressure checks will be carried out by professional nurses between 10am-4pm.

High blood pressure is thought to be one of the main causes of strokes, and the Rotary checks are being carried out in co-operation with the Stroke Association – an annual event which the Rotary Club of Barry has been supporting for several years.

The people most at risk from strokes are those over 50 years old.

The president of Barry Rotary Club, Don Carsley, said:

"There are many otherwise healthy people walking about not knowing that they have a high blood pressure, and therefore at a higher risk of having a stroke.

"In fact, two of our club members have suffered this way. Identifying the problem early gives people the opportunity to raise the issue with their doctor and seek appropriate treatment – a very simple step just requiring medication."

FRONTLINE HEROES...

Welsh Medics will be honoured in freedom ceremony

TERRITORIAL ARMY medics who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan are to be given the Freedom of the Vale of Glamorgan at a ceremony in King Square, Barry on Saturday (April 17) at 11.30am.

Cardiff-based 203 Welsh Field Hospital (Volunteers) is the only Territorial Army medical unit in Wales, and its personnel are all part-time volunteers.

Known as 'The Welsh Medics,' they recruit from across Wales, and the council has unanimously agreed to grant them the honour in recognition of their invaluable work in saving lives.

They recruit healthcare professionals from all disciplines, for example, doctors, nurses, paramedics, radiographers, physios, biomedical scientists, dentists, dental nurses, pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and health care support workers.

Tracing its roots back to the First World War, the hospital is based in Cardiff, with detachments in Swansea, Crickhowell and Llandudno. In recent times, it has deployed personnel in support of operations abroad during the Gulf wars, the Balkans and ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to continue its close bonds with the Regular Army medical services.

The Freedom, which is the highest tribute a county borough council can bestow, is a long-standing tradition whereby public recognition is given to individuals and/or organisations as an expression of the high esteem in which they are held both by the council in the area and its people.

In being given the honour in the Vale, the medics follow in the distinguished footsteps of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales), The Welsh Guards and The Royal Welsh.

King Square, Barry, will be the venue for the ceremony on Saturday, 17 April, when Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams will present a special scroll to the unit's Commanding Officer, Col Kevin Davies.

Following the ceremony, the unit, preceded by The Band of the Royal Welsh and accompanied by a police motorcycle outrider and two police horses and riders, will parade through the town to the Barry Leisure Centre. During the ceremony, Coun Williams and HM Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, will present medals to unit members for service in Afghanistan.

Coun Williams said: "I am delighted that we are able to recognise the unit and the valuable work they're doing both at home and abroad.

Many brave soldiers seriously injured in various conflicts owe their lives to the magnificent treatment given by units such as 'The Welsh Medics.' They continue to risk their lives to save those of others."

Col Kevin Davies said: "The Vale Council has shown its appreciation and acknowledgment of the significant contribution that Wales' Field Hospital makes in supporting UK Operations.

"The council recognition is wonderful news and we at 203 very much look forward to receiving our right to march through Barry."

• *The ceremony and parade are scheduled to take place between 11.30am and 12.30pm and motorists are advised of the likelihood of some short delays during this period.*

Heritage Coast through the eye of an artist

AN exhibition of artist Joan Baker's paintings has been on display at the Senedd and in the Pierhead Building, with a focus on the Heritage Coast.

Hosted by Jane Hutt AM, the exhibition continues in the Pierhead until the end of April and is "well worth a visit", she says.

Jane Hutt AM with the painting Marcross: Large Wreck after Winter Storm 1985 by Joan Baker.

Ladies choir in concert

BARRY Ladies Choir present their annual spring concert at Crossway Methodist Church Hall, Court Road, Barry, on Saturday, April 24 at 7pm.

The choir will be conducted by musical director Alice Jones, and accompanied by Emma Arscott.

Tickets are £5 (children half price) available from choir members; at the door, or telephone 01446 746495.

There will be refreshments and raffle. Proceeds are to fund the choir's twinning visit to Fécamp in June for a national festival.

Bro Radio wins Assembly grant

BRO RADIO of Barry, is one of six community radio stations in Wales receiving grants totalling £100,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government's Community Radio Fund.

The station has just been granted £17,941. Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones said: "These radio stations play a valuable role in reflecting the issues affecting people living in these communities. They also provide opportunities for residents to gain new skills and in some cases employment.

"I'm very pleased to announce these grants and to congratulate the stations on the important role they play in their communities."

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

Out and About with The GEM

Colin's 50th birthday goal for Ty Hafan

COLIN JONES of Dinas Powys Rotary Club set himself a 50th birthday challenge – to cycle the length of Wales from Holyhead to Cardiff, in aid of Ty Hafan and Rotary Club charities.

To help Colin reach his charity target, a signed Ospreys rugby shirt was donated by Veolia Transport Cymru, where Colin is coach.

Landlady Sue Copner, of the Three Horse Shoes pub in Dinas Powys, agreed to purchase the shirt and donate £500 towards the target for the cycle ride.

Colin is seen (above) presenting the signed Ospreys shirt to Sue.

Anyone who would like to help Colin reach his target, can donate in-line at www.justgiving.com/colin-jones0

The Ospreys shirt is handed over.

Charity curry and quiz night

THE Penarth Ladies Circle is holding a Curry and Quiz night on May 7 at 7.30pm in the Adventure Island play centre, Friars Road, Barry Island.

Tickets are £5, with all proceeds going to the Headway charity. There will be a bar and raffle on the night, and a prize for the quiz winner! Teams welcome.

For tickets, contact Jodie on 07966 172758 or email jodie.evans@staubin-nurseries.co.uk

Van man winner

THE winner of our recent 'Who drives what' competition was Lisa Elliott of Barry, who won £20.

Keep reading The GEM for more great competitions!

Worcester trip for a good cause!

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans have organised a fundraising trip to Worcester on Saturday, May 15.

Tickets are £15 each, and details are available from Julie Robinson on 01446 796471. Proceeds, as always, will go to Bridgend Samaritans.

PACT meetings in the Vale...

THE following PACT meetings are being held in the Vale next week:

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall, April 19, at 7pm.

LLANDOW PACT, Ewenny Village Hall, Wednesday, April 21, at 7pm.

COLWINSTON Cuppa With A Copper, The Sycamore Tree Public House, April 24, at 1pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clothes swap

LLANTWIT Transition are holding a clothes swap (bring to swap or buy) at the Old White Hart public house, Llantwit Major at 2pm on April 24.

3 Peaks Challenge

A 3 Peaks charity challenge starts at 4am on Saturday, June 12 from Pen y Pass, Snowdonia, then on to Cadair Idris (also in Snowdonia) and Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons.

Taking part are five employees of Sinclair Finance and Leasing.

Proceeds from the challenge are in aid of the Ty Hafan hospice at Sully.

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Saturday 10th July
RAT IN THE KITCHEN - £14
Saturday 17th July
CERI DUPREE - £10
Saturday 31st July
IAN JONES as LEE EVANS - £10
Please note that all the above prices include Chicken and Chips or Vegetarian option.
Party Bookings welcome.
Venue also available for private hire – ask at the bar for details.
For further details on the above call
01446 721888
or email info@shadowscabaretbar.com

'Walk on Wild Side' of the Vale

A 'WALK on the Wild Side' is a family walk with a difference, full of nature activities, for grown-ups and kids to discover and explore the secret trails of Porthkerry Country Park.

It takes place on May 16 and is part of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival.

Gareth Simpson of Valeways, said: "It is a walk of two miles, along footpaths and woodland trails. Wellies will be necessary as some of the trails are likely to be muddy."

Booking essential. Visit www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk for the full programme and online booking.

Phone bookings and enquiries can be made by calling Valeways on 01446 749000 (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm).

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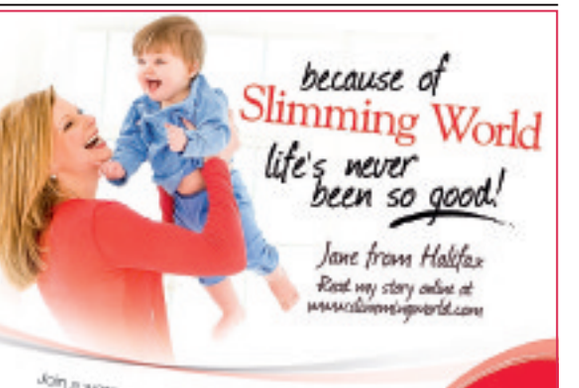
Karen's painting wins the prize!

PICTURED is Karen Briscombe, who won the Sully Painting Group's annual modern art competition.

The wide variety of exhibits in the competition, will all be on show at the Sully painting exhibition, together with many other paintings in Jubilee Hall, Sully, on June 25-26.

KAREN BRISCOMBE.



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Belvedere Crescent
Niki 01446 740394
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MONDAY
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Lorraine 01446 407002
Penarth – 6.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Road
Niki 01446 740394
Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen 01446 750738
TUESDAY
Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne 01446 404897
Barry – 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall,
Winston Road
Annamarie 01446 736534
Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6.45pm
Old School, Wine Street
Helen 01446 750738
Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road
Niki 01446 740394
WEDNESDAY
Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
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Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie 01446 736534
Barry – 6.00pm
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JUSTINA'S CHARITY OGMORE BEACH CANTER PROVES A HUGE SUCCESS!

THE "amazing" success of a charity 'beach canter' last weekend at Ogmore-by-Sea looks likely to lead to it becoming an annual event.

The day, organised by ITV newsreader Justina Simpson, attracted hundreds of horses and riders, and the posse set off along the beach towards Newton, pausing only to ford the River Ogmore – or sometimes use the stepping stones.

Money raised will go to a new diagnostic, treatment and consultation centre at Llandough Hospital that helps women with breast cancer.

Justina Simpson told The GEM: "The beach canter for breast cancer yesterday was an amazing success.

"We were truly astounded at how many people turned up. Even people who have arranged horse events for many years were shocked by the amount of riders.

"In total there were 207 horses, 150 people walking on foot and we raised more than £3,000 in just a few hours and we are still awaiting hundreds more in sponsorship."

She continued: "I would like to say a massive thanks to my fiancé Marcus Hagley, who helped me come up with the idea of this event.

"He has done everything, from designing the posters for the event to stewarding on the day and collecting money.

"However, we simply couldn't have done the event without William and Rachel Pugh from Llangan. William is fantastic with horses and trains his own race horse.

"He gave me my beautiful horse and got me back in the saddle. He did everything from planning the route for the riders to organising the car parking."

"Every night after work he travelled around to more than 100 stables in the Vale handing out posters. He gave up so much of his time, and without him and his wife Rachel, we couldn't have put this event on."

Justina went on: "Massive thanks also to Rob from Ogmore Riding Centre, who donated half the money from the horses he hired to the charity and guided the riders safely across the beach.

"People of all ages and all capabilities took part. It really was quite a sight seeing more than 200 horses galloping along the beach in the sunshine.

"Steve from the Pelican also put on free food for all the hungry riders who came back to the pub after three hours of riding. He has been fantastic.

"My parents Sara and Paul Simpson also helped on the day, collecting money and stewarding.

"The sun was shining and everyone said what an amazing event it was. Lots of people thanked us for organising it, and as a result we are now going to make it an annual event."

She added: "Thanks also to The GEM for publicising the event. I really believe your article last week attracted lots of people."

Photos by MANDY THOMAS
(Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347)
These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on
www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk

ABOVE and BELOW:
Lots of youngsters were keen to get aboard their ponies for the charity event.

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LETTINGS

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RHOOSE

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- Double glazing
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Clos Yr Harbwr	151	Gold	15/01/10
Copperfield Court	20	Silver	08/02/10
Dylan Crescent	36	Gold	20/01/10
Elizabeth Avenue	46	Gold	25/02/10
Gwenog Court	10	Bronze	23/02/10
Harvey Street	79	Gold	27/07/06
Heritage Drive	142	Gold	22/01/10
Jenner Road	92	Gold	10/10/08
Magellan Close	123	Gold	11/03/09
Merion Close	61	Gold	06/02/10
Merganser Court	65	Gold	23/02/10
Pendine Close	34	Gold	29/10/09
Pontalun Close	23	Silver	24/07/08
Robins Lane	151	Gold	02/04/09
St Garmon Road	90	Gold	28/01/10
Wellwood Drive	62	Silver	08/01/09
Williams Crescent	61	Gold	15/02/10

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- Double glazing
- Community alarm

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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.49 per week including water charges

Easter celebrations at Oak Field Primary School had eggsacting task for the judges

PUPILS at Oak Field Primary School, Barry, had a wonderful last day of term by holding their annual Easter hat parade.

The standard of entries as usual was excellent, and judges found it very difficult to pick three winners from each year group who all received an Easter egg and certificate.

Well done to all the pupils and their parents for all their hard work.

SARAH DI TOMASO
(Assistant headteacher)

ROUND TWO OF WELSH MASTERS' EVENT

Trophies for Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do pupils

Left to right: Back row – Ben Mort, Morganne Gomez Jones, Emily Stavert, Jon Hawkins. Middle row – Matthew Bennett, Charlotte Sullivan, Bradley Halford, Morgan Harrhy. Front row – Hayley Mattey, Lucy Newman, Ollie Tipples, Thomas Haysham and Morgan Stavert Hawkins. Missing from the picture is Liam Rees.

CADOXTON Schools of Tae Kwon Do continued their build up to the World Organisation of Martial Arts Athletes (WOMAA) world game by competing in the second of a series of six Welsh masters' tournaments.

This time, the host for the day was David Tolcher. Points were awarded to the first four places in each category, resulting in a grand champion at the end of the series.

Once again, the students representing Cadoxton did their instructors and parents proud, bringing home 26 trophies between them.

Lucy Newman and Jon Hawkins got the club off to a good start, taking third places in the junior and senior pattern sections.

Successful in their respective height categories were: Matthew Bennett, Emily Stavert, Thomas Haysham, Morganne Gomez Jones and Liam Rees – all took first in light continuous and second in point sparring.

Morgan Stavert Hawkins and Bradley Halford took first place in point and second in light continuous sparring. Ollie Tipples and Morgan Harrhy were second in point and third in light continuous sparring. Ben Mort and Charlotte Sullivan took first in point sparring, with Hayley Mattey taking second in point sparring.

Lucy Newman, after coming third in the patterns, went on to take second in point and second in light continuous sparring. After a hard-fought men's light continuous section, Jon Hawkins came away with a third place to go with his third in the men's pattern section.

Places are now available for beginners of all ages, Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm at the Victoria Park Community Centre. For further information, ring Ron Thomas on 01446 406372.

At last, warm weather for Cottrell Park competitors

ON April 1, Cottrell Park ladies were lucky with the weather, which remained dry during their 12-hole Easter Texas scramble.

It was won by Tina Morgan, Sara Williams, Brenda Margetts and Norma Fryer with a net 45.6. In second place were Viv Fisher, Patricia Haines, Liz Overton and Andrea Caines (net 47.9) and in third were Elaine Mais, Marion Stephenson and Jenny McGlyne (net 49.1).

An Easter lunch was enjoyed by all following the competition, and the prizes were presented by Lorraine Pointon-Bell, the ladies' captain.

The ladies winter league and winter eclectic results were announced and the trophies presented to Tessa Matthews (winter league) and Jenny Knott (winter eclectic).

On Easter Monday, a mixed Texas scramble was played and this was won by the team of Jenny and Edward Knott, Sara Williams and Dil Alexander.

CB

Easter Monday winners: Jenny and Edward Knott, Sara Williams and Dil Alexander.

Tessa Matthews, Winter League trophy.

Jenny Knott, Winter Eclectic trophy.

ABOVE: April 1 winners: Sara Williams, Brenda Margetts, Norma Fryer.

Barry RFC girls aim to be rugby trail-blazers in Wales!

LEFT: Barry Rugby Club's under-12 girls' team recently played their first-ever fixture against Drybrook in the Forest of Dean.

BARRY RFC has formed a girls' team at under-12s level – the first in Wales!

The team recently returned from their first-ever fixture against a team based in the Forest of Dean. The Barry girls were narrowly defeated by Drybrook, but travelled home from across the border full of excitement and a hunger for more.

Coach Lisa Jordan said: "Many of the girls didn't have much knowledge of rugby to begin with so we started the season with classroom sessions to teach them the rules.

"They've worked really hard and to see them play their first match was amazing. They actually took the lead by scoring a try in the first 10 seconds, which was unbelievable! Although we ended up losing, we gave them a really good run for their money and we are looking forward to a return fixture."

There will be many more fixtures for the girls to enjoy next season as teams across Wales are set to spring into action.

However, Barry RFC will always be the first, and the Vale Council rugby development officer Matt Silva said: "I was asked last year if there were any projects that I would like to get under way after new funding became available from the Sports Council for Wales.

"It came at a time when local residents had asked if we could start a girls' rugby team in the Vale. The project took off and it has been steadily growing for the past 12 months."

Matt added: "This is a great start for the girls and it will be exciting for them to test themselves in more matches next season. Some of the girls will move up next year to form an under-15s squad, while new players are invited to come along and train with both age groups."

Any girls aged from 10 up to 15 are welcome to train with the club on Sunday mornings (10.15am-12noon) on Barry Island beach, and Tuesday evenings (7pm-8pm) at the rugby club. Both training sessions will continue through the summer. To find out more, telephone Lisa Jordan on 07854 146075.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Young Dylan leads out the Cardiff Blues

ABOVE: Dylan with Blues captain Paul Tito.

ONE young rugby fan from Llantwit Major had a big thrill recently when he was the official mascot at a Cardiff Blues game.

Dylan Thomas (aged five) was mascot at the Cardiff Blues match on Mother's Day when Cardiff played Gloucester in the LV Cup semi-final.

Young Dylan led the team onto the pitch, shadowing the Blues captain, second row forward Paul Tito.

It was a shock to Dylan, who had insisted before the match that nobody could be taller than his grand-dad!

Dylan had his face painted with the Blues logo, was given a Cardiff Blues shirt and taken into the dressing room.

He also went into the press conference room, sat on the chair and had a pretend press conference. Many more photos were taken on that momentous day, and Dylan also had his photo in the programme, with a small write up about his hobbies and where he attends school.

His Nan, Elaine, told The GEM: "Dylan's dad and grand-dad, and other family members all went to the game, and we were supplied with complimentary tickets for the day.

"His favourite Blues player is Llantwit's Dafydd Hewitt."

The only thing that could not be arranged was a Blues win – and Gloucester did leave Dylan feeling "gutted", for a while.

His Nan said: "We, as a family, would like to thank all those in the Cardiff Blues who made Dylan's day very special, it was also a fantastic Mother's/Nana's day present, and one that we will never forget."

Success for netball teams

BARRY B netball team, who have been playing in division six in the local Cardiff and Vale league, ended their season with another good win over M J Movers B by 26-6.

This season has been their best so far and they will finish third in the division, and have been a credit to Barry Netball Club.

They have not had a regular training session throughout the season and their ages range from 13-18.

Captained by Amber Pringle, the team has shown great maturity.

Thanks go to Alison and Julia, two mums who have helped keep score, and a special thank you to Sara Hardy, who has umpired each week, which is a real commitment.

The Barry A team also finished third in Division five, and have had a great season, captained by Rachel Hewitson.

The club is now fielding six teams – four in junior leagues and two in the adult league.

This is down to the dedication of the coaches and the commitment from the players and their parents.

The teams will now go on to compete in the summer leagues and netball adult sessions will be arranged on a Sunday evening from the end of April.

Anyone wishing to come along and join in will be more than welcome.

For more information for junior or adult sections ages 8 years + please contact Sara Hardy on 01446 733556 or me on 01446 749965.

Linda Rees

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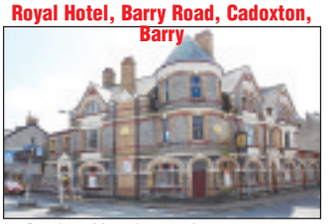

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All our love, Jeanette, Gail, Jonny and Jane and all the grandchildren
x x x x
50th 50th

Family Notices

EVANS
Sarah Marguerite
Died peacefully at Llandough Hospital on April 3, Sallie of St Osyth Court, Barry.
Dearly beloved wife of the late Bryn Hamer Evans, joyful mother of Nerys and Gareth, mother-in-law of Ted Egan and Margaret Evans, loving grandmother of David and Michael.
Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the private funeral on Friday April 16. A memorial service in celebration of Sallie's life with be held at the Tabernacle Chapel, Holton Road, Barry, on Sunday, April 18 at 11.00am.
No flowers by request, donations to the NSPCC.

NEWBERY, Lewis
of Llantwit Major died peacefully on the 8th April 2010 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, the dearly loved husband of Terry and father to Simon and Debbie.
Funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday 21st April at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to East Abertawe Bro Mor University NHS Trust (Princess of Wales Hospital) c/o the Funeral Directors W.A. Brown & Son, Tel 01446 792489

WILLIAMS
On 5 April, suddenly but peacefully at home in Worthing, Connie, aged 87, late of Aberthin.
Beloved wife of the late John, loving mother of Jonny and the late Suzanne, cherished nan of Hannah, Nathan and great-grandson Jenson, and dearly loved sister of Maureen.
Funeral at Worthing Crematorium on 23 April at 1.40pm. Family flowers only but donations at Connie's request please to The Meningitis Trust, Sophia House, 28 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9LJ or online at www.meningitis-trust.org

THOMAS, James
It is with sadness we announce the passing of James Thomas of Llantwit Major on 9th April, 2010.
Beloved son of Ken and Maureen Thomas, brother of Alexandra (Peter) and Allan (Beverley); and father to Alice and Gemma.
Funeral service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, 22nd April, 2010 at 10am.
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CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS AA WELSH SPORTSHALL FINALS

Unlucky George misses out on Welsh record

Members of the Cardiff & the Vale Schools team, including Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cowbridge) enjoyed taking part in the Welsh Sportshall finals.

THERE were mixed fortunes for the nine Vale pupils who competed for the Cardiff & the Vale Schools team at the recent Aviva Welsh Sportshall Finals at Cwmbran Stadium.

The competition is a team event for the eight schools' districts in Wales, with two age groups – under-13 (years 7 and 8) and under-15 (years 9 and 10).

At under-13, athletes are restricted to a maximum of two individual events – one track and one field – and the team size is limited to a maximum of 12.

At under-15, there is an all-rounder competition with each athlete competing in one of two events in three groups. For boys, the groupings are two laps or four laps, standing long jump or standing triple jump, and shot or speed bounce, while in the girls' competition, groupings are the same, with the one change being the vertical jump replacing the standing triple jump.

Athletes gain points based on their ranking in each event.

The winning team in each section qualifies to represent Wales at the UK Sportshall Finals at the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

For Welsh Schools' combined events international Matthew Roan, there was disappointment. A groin injury incurred in the under-15 2 laps time-trials resulted in the year-10 St Cyres pupil being advised by his team manager to withdraw rather than risk possible further damage.

Two selection gambles in the under-13 boys' team had vastly different outcomes. Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) had competed in the 2 laps event at the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' competition, but he was selected for the 4 laps at these Welsh finals, and it paid off as the year-7 pupil beat the best of year-8 in both heat and final to claim the title.

For his Cowbridge team-mate, George Griffiths, there was disappointment. At the Cardiff & the Vale Schools competition, the talented year-8 sprinter and long jumper had won three events – 2 laps, standing long jump and high jump.

With pupils restricted to only two events at these finals, the selectors opted to include him in the 2 laps and high jump competitions. He competed well in both events, but had to settle for silver medals.

To add to the disappointment, he was allowed to compete as a non-scoring athlete in the standing long jump, and produced a best leap of 2.62 metres, a distance which would have been good enough to win and been a new Welsh age group best.

The Cowbridge duo gained a further medal, a bronze, in the 4 x 2 laps relay.

There was a second gold medal for Cowbridge in the under-13 girls standing long jump. At the Cardiff & the Vale Schools championships, Izzy Eddy-Williams had finished fourth in the standing long jump with a best distance of two metres but, at Cwmbran, she went way beyond that mark, leaping to 2.27 metres to win by two centimetres from her team-mate Claire Taylor (Radyr).

In the under-15 girls section, Cowbridge provided four of the seven girl team. Year-10 Romy Killick, the Cardiff & the Vale Schools all rounder champion, was the top placer, finishing 12th out of the 43 scoring athletes.

Results of Vale pupils: **Under-15 boys** – Years 9 and 10: Team: - 4th (506): Matthew Roan (St Cyres) (2 Laps – 24.8; Shot – 9.18m).

Under-13 boys – Years 7 and 8: Team: - 5th (544): George Griffiths (Cowbridge) 60 (2 Laps – 2nd – 24.6 (30); High Jump – 2nd – 1.50m (30); non scoring Standing Long Jump – 2.62m; Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) 54 (4 Laps – 1st – 53.5 (32); High Jump – 6th – 1.35m (22); 4 x 2 Laps relay – 3rd – 1:43.9 (60); 4 x 1 Lap relay – 6th – 54.8 (30); Obstacle relay – 5th – 1:32.0 (40); 8 Lap Paarlauf – 4th – 1:53.3 (50).

Under-15 girls – Team: - 4th (490): 12th Romy Killick (Cowbridge) 107 (2 Laps - 26.5 (33); Speed Bounce – 72 (34); Standing Long Jump – 2.17m (40); 14th= Caitlin Allin (Cowbridge) 100 (2 Laps – 26.5 (33); Speed Bounce – 70 (26); Vertical Jump – 51 (41); 28th Katie Wynne (Cowbridge) 79 [4 Laps – 63.0 (16); Shot – 6.79m (30); Vertical Jump – 48 (33); 41st Miriam Bennett (Cowbridge) 44 (4 Laps – 62.2 (18); Shot – 5.40m (16); Standing Long Jump – 1.73m (10); 4 x 2 Laps relay – 4th – 1:46.2 (50); 8 Lap Paarlauf – 5th – 1:59.7 (40).

Under-13 girls – Team: - 3rd (537): Izzy Eddy-Williams (Cowbridge) 54 (4 Laps – 6th – 59.0 (22); Standing Long Jump – 1st – 2.27m (32); Annabel Curle (Cowbridge) 14 (Standing Triple Jump – 10th – 5.72m (14); 4 x 2 Laps relay – 2nd – 1:48.2 (70); 4 x 1 Lap relay – 2nd – 55.0 (70); Obstacle relay – 8th – 1:46.6 (10); 8 Lap Paarlauf – 4th – 1:59.5 (50).

The UK Sportshall finals are being held at the National Exhibition Centre, near Birmingham, on Sunday, April 18. As a result of his performance at Cwmbran, George Griffiths (Cowbridge) has been invited to compete as a wild card entry in the under-13 standing long jump competition.

Year-7 Tom Trotman (Cowbridge) on his way to victory in the under-13 4 laps event.

Cross country

THREE Vale pupils recently represented Welsh Schools at cross-country internationals at Truro and Mansfield.

At Truro, English Schools, on rota, hosted the Aviva SIAB international for top pupils at under-17 (years 10 and 11) and under-15 (years 8 and 9), with the opposition coming from Scotland, Wales and a team from All-Ireland.

Year-11 Bethan Daw has good reason to feel well pleased with her run. The St Cyres pupil just squeezed into the Welsh Schools team, finishing seventh at the Aviva Welsh Schools championships in Brecon, but, in the under-17 race at Truro, she was the fourth Welsh girl to finish, claiming 21st place.

The Welsh team claimed bronze medals behind English and All-Ireland.

Llantwit pupil Megan Osborne will not be satisfied with her performance. At Brecon, the year-9 was the silver medallist in the under-15 race but, in Cornwall, she was placed 26th, though she too was the fourth Welsh scorer.

Stanwell sixth former Owen Haswell has endured an injury-ridden last 12 months. He has done remarkably well to return to action over the country, and to gain selection for the Welsh Schools under-20 team against Welsh Athletics at the Inter Association match within the Aviva Home Countries international, organised by English Athletics at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

Sadly, this was one race too far for Haswell and although he started, on the advice of his team manager, he withdrew from the race before the finish.

Words PETER MORRIS Pictures IAN DIXON

Sully Sports junior teams' French tour is a sparkling success

Sully Sports RFC has a 22 year twinning history with Fecamp Rugby Club, Normandy.

This season, three groups from Fecamp RC made the trip to Barry for the Wales v France Six Nations game, and last weekend the Sully Sports RFC under-11s and under-12s travelled to Fecamp to continue this twinning relationship, taking an early part in Fecamp RC's 40th anniversary celebrations.

A club delegation will travel to Fecamp at the end of this month to join in the formal celebrations.

The youngsters, accompanied by their coaches and a band of parents, had an early 3am departure from the Sully Clubhouse on Friday, but they were full of energy and spirit.

Arriving in Fecamp early Friday afternoon, the party strolled past the harbour down to the beach for a game of football.

In the evening, they were given a reception by the Mayor of Fecamp and the President of Fecamp RC, returning to their accommodation well fed and watered.

The next morning, the boys spent a couple of hours in the town centre, its streets full of the Saturday market stalls.

Fecamp RC provided a wonderful lunch - SSRFC wondered as to whether this was the usual good hospitality or intended to gain an advantage by feeding the boys up prior to playing the arranged rugby games!

Disappointingly, when the under-11s and under-12s got to the stadium, the players waiting were unmatched in age groups, resulting in an unexpected format of games.

The under-11s played a five-minute each way game, in a four-a-side tag rugby format on a very small pitch.

Although the Sully Sports players ranged from nine to 11, the Fecamp group were mainly eight and nine year olds, so even playing a whole different way, Sully Sports were triumphant, but the smaller, younger Fecamp team were to be commended for the enthusiasm and spirit.

The boot was on the other foot with the under-12s, as they played a team that was older, bigger and quicker, as well as playing a slightly format of laws.

Despite this, in a fast open game, the Sports won the battle of possession and territory, only to be outdone by tries created from turnovers and different laws on kicking.

The Sports never gave up, showing great courage and spirit against their physically larger opponents.

Following after-match refreshments and presentations, the party were taken in the evening to a National Basketball League game between Fecamp US and ASA Sceaux, which was an exciting and different experience for the Sports.

On Sunday morning, the Sports were treated to even more excitement when they visited the local adventure park.

With appetites now ravenous, it was off to the Fecamp RC Clubhouse for a magnificent array of food, including a BBQ – cooked by visiting guest chef Alistair Davies – and fond farewells.

On the way back to the homeward ferry, the party enjoyed a couple of hours of 10-pin bowling and pool, with the boys still full of energy, spirit and competitiveness.

The ferry home proved a lot different to the one outward, as the weather in the channel was on the choppy side, with the crew soon issuing plenty of sick bags, and many of the party finding that they were not sea dogs after all.

Sully Sports RFC wish to record the pride in their under-11s and under-12s, who were true tourists and great ambassadors for the club, Welsh rugby and the Vale.

Coaches Alistair Davies, John Stafford and Ray Gallivan were so proud of their teams, and deserved praise and thanks for all their hard work with the boys, and in putting together this successful tour.

All the parents are also thanked for their support for the sons and the club, and those who did not go on the tour will soon learn from those who did, what a great time and experience missed by not going on the trip.

Finally, everyone wishes to re-iterate its heartfelt thanks to Fecamp Rugby Club for the welcome, hospitality and hard work put in to ensure such a memorable tour – special thanks go to Christine, Christian, Julien, club president Francois and his good wife, and the many other club members involved.

Old friendships were renewed and new ones were started.

The junior section's annual presentation evening will take place at the Sully Clubhouse on May 9, starting at 5pm.

Cowbridge RFC under-12s are tested by 'Nant'

COWBRIDGE under-12s entertained Nantyffyllon RFC under-12s for the first time in what proved to be a very testing match.

The Nanty pack was the largest that the Cowbridge boys had played against this season, and the forwards were complemented by a skilful backs section.

The game got off to a good start with a try within five minutes from Rian Thomas, playing in a new role as left wing, and the conversion by Jonny Harvey was successful.

Nanty came straight back into the game with an interception try, the conversion was missed to give Cowbridge a narrow 7-5 lead, but the Nanty pack were keeping the Cowbridge eight pinned down and they deservedly scored another try to take the lead.

However, Cowbridge's new flyer Thomas hit back to provide a 12-10 half-time lead to Cowbridge.

The second half saw strong runs by Frazz McGhan, Josh Brace and Ben Jones, which kept Cowbridge on the front foot and 10 minutes into the second half, Thomas blasted through the Nanty covering tackles to add to the scoring.

Cowbridge now had the upper hand but the boys still had to make tackles, with Luke John, Matt Harper, Ashford Thomas and Hywel Williams putting in some great hits.

With 10 minutes left, Ben Jones picked up the ball on the halfway line and dodged at least five tackles to run in the ball to make it 22-10.

Miles Davies then scored under the posts from halfway.

The final score was 27-10 and was a great preparation for next week's Blues Cup semi-final against Penarth.

A big thank you to Nantyffyllon and we hope to arrange regular seasonal fixtures with them in the future.

Full squad: Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Tom Evans, Ben Jones, Frazz McGhan, Rob David, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Jonny Harvey, Gabriel Newham, Rian Thomas, Harvey Stockford, Matt Harper and Miles Davies.

Under-9s and under-8s

The under-8s and under-9s competed in their district tournaments.

Both sides put up creditable performances and progressed to the semi-final stages of the tournament.

The under-8s played some great rugby throughout the day but lost out by the odd score in a seven-try thriller in the semi-final.

The under-9s also played some superb rugby, before eventually losing out to tournament hosts Llanishen in their semi-final.

ML

What's on and where, around and about?

China hunt

THE All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, will hold a fundraising coffee morning in the church hall in aid of much-needed funds for new china and glassware, on Saturday, April 17, starting at 10am-12noon. Entrance 50p.

Stalls include romance, fiction, thrillers and books for children; guess the weight of the cake; tombola and raffle.

Friends and Neighbours

ST PATRICK's Day was celebrated recently at the Senior Health Shop in Barry by Friends and Neighbours' senior citizen group, with a lunch which consisted of leek and potato soup, bread roll and cheese, with dessert to follows.

Friends and Neighbours welcome new members.

The next meeting will be held on April 21 at 2pm at the Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry. The cost is 50p, to include tea/coffee and cake. We have a varied programme for the year.

For further information, telephone Gay Fifield (secretary) on 01446 400044, or just go along!

Art demo

COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, April 22, at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when Ronald Swanwick will demonstrate in acrylics and oils.

Non-members are welcome to attend.

Red Cross sale

THE Cowbridge Red Cross is holding another mini fabric sale on Friday, April 23, at the Broadshoard Centre, 10.30am-12.30pm – coffee and tea available.

Open the day before (same time) for donations to the sale of fabric and related items; or telephone 01446 773987 for assistance.

Admission is free.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr Duncan Reid – **29 Rheidol Drive, Barry** – proposed ground floor extensions to form garden room/conservatory and granny annexe.

Mrs Pauline Collins – **52 Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major** – removal of existing garage and construction of a new detached garage.

Mr and Mrs Gareth Griffiths – **41 Castle Avenue, Penarth** – two storey extension providing ground floor sitting room, first floor bedroom and bathroom together with the re-location of the existing parking spaces.

Mr D Stealey – **land at 3 Bridgeman Road, Penarth** – renewal of application 2005/00104/FUL doe new dwelling.

Mr Michael Good – **6 Tair Gwaun, Caversham Park, Penarth** – two-and-a-half storey side extension and one-and-a-half storey rear extension to provide additional living/bedroom space. Car parking relocated to frontage.

Ms Sian White – **Maverick Stables, Argae Lane, St Andrews Major** – retention of access road and hardstand.

Mr and Mrs Phil James – **White Bungalow, Barry Road, Dinas Powys** – proposed replacement dwelling and detached garage.

Mr Antony Oakley – **Rectory Cottages, Llandough, Cowbridge** – two storey side extensions and gable end dormers to the rear elevation.

Mr and Mrs M Miller – **The Old Rectory, Bonvilston** – extension and alterations to dwelling as amendments to 2007/00137/FUL.

Mr Ashley Beckingham – **16 Dyfrig Street, Barry Island** – single storey front and side extension and loft conversion.

Mr Paul Brown – **The Perrells, Westra, Dinas Powys** – single storey rear extension.

Miss Jones – **Greystones, Flemingston** – conservatory to front.

Mr Wyndham Nelson – **45 Teasel Avenue, Penarth** – erect a rear porch.

Mr Alun Griffiths – **Ashdene, Bridge Road, Llanblethian** – wooden pool structure to rear of garden.

Newydd Housing – **27 Masefield Road, Penarth** – single storey extension to rear of the property to provide wheelchair access ground floor shower room.

Mrs Susan Green – **8 Brookside, Dinas Powys** – erection of first floor extension to side.

Mrs Victoria Lacey – **25 Heol Pilipala, Rhoose Point, Rhoose** – garage conversion.

Mrs Linda McCormack – **19 Liscum Way, Barry** – rear single storey kitchen/dining extension.

Mr Peter Stafford – **22 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth** – extension to existing first floor bedroom.

Mr Rhodri Traherne – **Castle Lodge, Castle Green, St George's-Super-Ely, nr Cardiff** – demolition of existing two storey house, and development of two high quality two storey semi-detached houses.

New Broad Street Motors – **New Broad Street Motors, Broad Street, Barry** – erection of nominal 3,000mm high free standing advertisement sign.

Mr and Mrs K and H Rees – **35 Cornerswell Road, Penarth** – demolition of existing garage of rear boundary walling and single store garden store.

Mr Matthew Thomas – **2 Hinchsliff Avenue, Barry** – proposed porch to front of existing domestic dwelling.

Mr and Mrs Rollason – **12 Ewenny Road, Wick** – proposed two storey kitchen and en-suite bedroom extension an vehicular crossover.

Mr Darren Frankland – **26 Slade Close, Sully** – single storey extension to side of house, loft conversion and construction of porch.

Timpson Ltd – **Tesco Stores Ltd** – installation of a free-standing retail kiosk in the car park of the Tesco Extra store at Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff.

Punch Partnership – **Bush Inn, St Hilary** – remove damaged oak roof structure in west wing of main building. Remove unstable internal stone gable wall down to eaves level (works to reduce gable wall to make safe started 15/02/2010. Rebuild stone gable wall with salvaged stone and build new oak truss roof to match existing with thatch covering.

Mr Philip Hunt – **Waun View, Wenvoe** – regularisation of previous planning approval ref 2009/01028/FUL and re-erection of existing bungalow together with extensions, incorporating minor amendments to the location of rooflights and the level of the fascias to flat roofed areas.

Mrs Silke Casey – **1 Orchard Lodge, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – demolish existing single storey garage and WC and construct new two storey side extension to form study, cloaks and utility at ground floor and bedroom with en-suite above.

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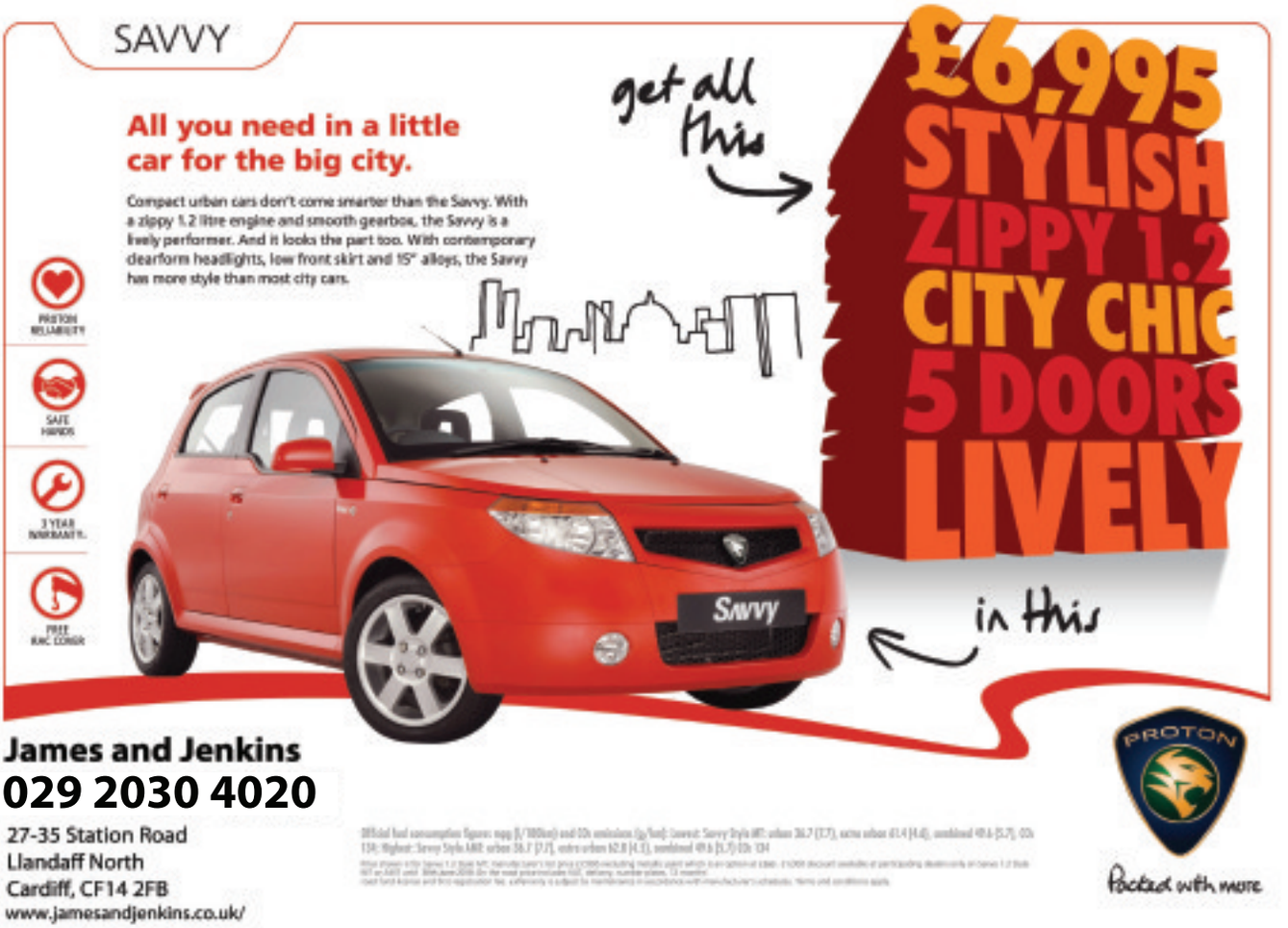

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03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles....**£4,495**

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02 **51 HONDA S2000 Roadster 2.0i Vtec (Cat 1 Alarm)** In Berlina Black with full red leather interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric roof, glass rear screen, one owner only, 20,510 miles....**£9,995**

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FAMILY

09 **09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 (100ps) Style** 5 door hatchback in Aquarius blue with dark flint interior, air con, front fog lights, colour coded bumpers, manufactures warranty only 5,760 miles....**£9,995**

07 **57 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi Cool 5-dr hatchback** in Arctic silver with Galand black interior, air con, cd, immobiliser, £35 a year road tax, one owner, only 37,845 miles....**£6,995**

06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles....**£7,995**

05 **55 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique** in met platinum silver with ruche cloth interior, auto lights, auto wipers, air con, cd, clour coded bumpers, only 16,380 miles....**£5,795**

05 **05 VW Bora 1.9 TDi Highline 4-Dr Saloon.** In black with beige leather interior, air con, heated seats, rear parking sensors, cruise control, only 57,655 miles....**£7,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles....**£6,495**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles....**£6,495**

04 **04 SKODA Fabia 1.2 Limited Edition 5-dr hatchback** in met green with grey interior, alloy wheels, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, service history, only 52,765 miles....**£3,795**

03 **52 BMW 1.8 316i SE Touring Estate** in Sapphire Black with antracite interior, alloys wheels, 6 CD multichanger automatic air con, colour coded bumpers, only 50,280 miles....**£6,995**

01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles....**£4,295**

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09 **09 CHEVROLET Aveo LT 1.4** in pearl black with bricket cloth, aircon, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, alarm and immobiliser, cd, only 16,900 miles....**£6,995**

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07 **07 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.4 5-dr Hatchback** in silver with black interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, fog lights, only 37,550 miles....**£6,995**

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06 **06 FORD Fiesta Zetec 5-dr.** In panther black with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 18,131 miles....**£5,995**

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05 **05 MINI 1.6 One (salt) 3-dr Hatchback.** In pure silver with anthracite interior, 6 CD changer, automatic dipping rear-view mirror, panoramic roof, body coloured bumpers, only 39,600 miles....**£7,995**

04 **04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdm alloy wheels, alarm, only 43,895 miles....**£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Fiesta 1.4 SILVER Limited Edition.** In moondust silver with full midnight black leather, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 29,775 miles....**£4,995**

03 **53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi 3-dr hatchback** in black with dark interior, colour coded bumpers, alloy wheels, cd, only 45,800 miles....**£3,795**

02 **02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles....**£5,495**

02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles....**£3,495**

01 **51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr** in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fogs, only 46,010 miles....**£3,995**

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05 **55 BMW X5 3.0D Automatic Sport 5-Dr Station Wagon.** In sparkling graphite with black leather interior, automatic air con, sat nav, roof rails, 20" alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors, only 65,660 miles **£19,995**

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04 **54 VAUXHALL Tigra Convertible 1.8 Sport** in Kingfisher blue with anthracite interior, electric roof, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 62,840 miles....**£6,395**

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08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa Breeze 1.0 12v 3-dr hatchback** in lightning silver with dark upholstery, air con, alloy wheels, cd with auxiliary input, colour coded bumpers, only 12,970 miles....**£7,295**

06 **56 HONDA JAZZ 1.4i** DSi sport 5 door hatchback in Sirius Blue with black interior air con, 5 belted seats, CD, electric windows, service history, only 36,600 miles....**£7,995**

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02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys **£3,475**
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05 05 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£3,965**
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3-dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£4,475**
06 56 HYUNDAI 1.4 Getz GSi 3-dr. Black, met, 15k miles, rcl, ew, pas, cd **£4,975**
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-dr, grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd **£5,775**
04 04 FORD StreetKa 1.6 Luxury. Met black, 49k . . **£5,975**
04 54 TOYOTA Yaris VVTi 3-Dr 1.3. Met blue, 17k miles only, alloys **£5,975**
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl,pas,ew,cd **£5,975**
08 08 FORD KA 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In white, 9,000 miles **£6,475**
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**
07 07 RENAULT clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys **£6,975**

Family Cars

03 53 VW Passat 2.0 S 4-dr. Met. blue, 74k miles, many extras **£3,975**
05 05 RENAULT Megane 1.4 Rush 3-dr Silver met, 53k miles, alloys, rcl, a/c, cd **£4,475**
05 05 HYUNDAI Sonata 2.4 Auto Saloon, 4-dr, Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, ew, cd, cruise, full leather **£4,975**
05 05 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr. Met blue, 76k miles, fully loaded **£4,975**
04 54 TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 T3 Auto Met blue,48k . . **£6,475**
06 56 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi TURBO DIESEL. Met red, 36k miles, pas, a/c **£6,975**
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07 07 PEUGEOT 307 Hdi 90SE TURBO DIESEL. Green/grey met, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, ew, cd, a/c **£7,975**
09 58 CITROEN C2 1.4VTR Met black, 9k miles . . . **£7,975**
06 06 FORD Focus 1.6LX 5-dr, AUTO. In blue, petrol, 22,500 miles, a/c, c/d player, front e/c window, rcl . **£7,995**

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05 05 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 Sport. Met. black, 55k miles, fully loaded **£4,975**
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh **£5,975**
04 04 TOYOTA Celica VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c **£7,475**
05 05 PEUGEOT 307 Convertible. Met silver, auto, 50k miles **£7,975**
05 05 PEUGEOT 307 Convertible 2-dr AUTO. 2 litre petrol, 51k miles, met silver, rcl, alloy wheels and sports seats . . **£7,985**
04 04 MERCEDES SLK 200 Cabriolet AUTO Silver met, 59k miles, AMG Wheels, rcl, a/c, ew, must be seen . . **£11,975**
57 07 BMW 320D M Sport 4-dr AUTO. Met black, 31k miles, diesel, cream leather seats **£18,975**
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 Cabriolet AUTO. Silver met, 82k miles, leather, alloys, climate, cd, ew, rcl **£19,975**
06 56 BMW 335D AUTO 2dr Coupe Turbo Diesel. Grey met, 28k miles, full leather, cd, ew, a/c, stunning car . . . **£19,975**

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04 04 HYUNDAI Matrix 1.8 CDX MPV. Silver met, full leather, rcl, ew, cd **£3,975**
04 04 FORD Galaxy 2.3 AUTO Ghia MPV. Met silver, 90k miles, rcl, a/c, alloys, cd, cruise **£5,975**
04 04 SUZUKI Jimny JLX model 3-dr. Met red on silver, petrol 1.3, 18k miles, alloy wheels, roof rails, side steps, leather seats **£6,495**
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06 56 FORD Focus C-Max Zetec 2.0 AUTO 5dr. Met mintgreen, **only 4300 miles!**
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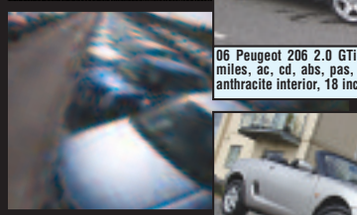

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R	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** In green black with two tone leather trim, great value Mercedes Convertible at	£4,995
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GEM sport

1-0 win over Waterfront Wanderers the culmination of season's hard work as...

Town lift Cup to create history!

ABOVE: The victorious Cowbridge Town FC, who won the Dockers Cup with a 1-0 win over Waterfront Wanderers at Jenner Park

COWBRIDGE TOWN FC wrote themselves into club history by securing the Dockers Cup in a determined 1-0 win over Waterfront Wanderers.

The victory symbolizes a meteoric rise for a club who have risen from the ashes since being reformed last summer and the achievement is a testament to the efforts of management team Edward Jones and Jon Westwood.

The game itself was a tight affair, with both defences keen to make their opposition play their football in front of them. It could have been a disastrous start for Town, however, as in the first minute centre back Mark Rollings mis-timed his challenge to fell the Wanderers' striker as he went through on goal.

A clear penalty, and the big centre half can count himself lucky the punishment ended there. Rollings' blushes were spared, however, when the penalty was stroked wide by the Wanderers taker, to relief from all associated with Town.

Chances were few and far between for the first half, with both sides restricted to long range efforts and set pieces. Both teams went into the break sensing the first goal was going to be crucial and thankfully for Town, so it proved.

Ten minutes into the second half, a typically dangerous corner was whipped into the Wanderers' box by Jack Gavin. The ball proved too threatening for the keeper to deal with and when the ball rebounded off Gethin Still and into the net, the Cowbridge faithful erupted.

With 35 minutes to go the job was far from done, and Wanderers pushed men forward in an effort to get back into the match. Goalkeeper Ian Bavey produced a fine save to deny the Wanderers central midfielder, after a tidy volley from the edge of the area, while the Cowbridge defence dug deep to protect their narrow lead.

Despite an aerial bombardment, all 11 Town players defended stoically, and when the referee blew the final whistle to seal the team's place in club history, the players erupted in delirium.

The whole of the town has shown great support to the boys this week, and everyone wants to thank the many businesses who have proudly displayed their match posters to help us generate the support which helped us through this Sunday.

Most importantly, the cup now sits proudly in the Cowbridge Town trophy cabinet.

'Long rest' for State of Play

by BRIAN LEE

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams was full of praise for his *State Of Play*, which finished a gallant third behind *Don't Push It* and *Black Apalachi* in Saturday's Grand National.

Evan will now prepare the 10-year-old for a third attempt next year. He said: "He's fine, he's grand, he stayed on well and he ran a very brave race and we're over the moon."

Jockey Paul Moloney said: "It was a serious run from a serious horse and he might win next year, God willing."

State Of Play, who had finished fourth the previous year, is still improving, says Evan, and his Hennessy Gold Cup winner will now have a long rest.

Cowbridge ladies 12 lose out to Waunarlwydd's full 15!

COWBRIDGE ladies turned out with only 12 players and had to play a full 80 minutes in near summer heat away to Waunarlwydd..

The first half was played predominantly in Waunarlwydd's half but the home side took their opportunites to hit Cowbridge on the break and scored two unconverted tries before the interval.

With uncontested scrums, Cowbridge ladies showed what they were made of by beating Waunarlwydd's heavier forwards in the majority of the breakdowns.

This game had seen the best tackling from Cowbridge ladies this season. The girls kept the pressure on Waunarlwydd, forcing them into making mistakes by putting in relentless hard tackles, notably by hooker Lowri Reeves and second row Mandy Parrish.

Little Ceri Bowen at scrum half saw off her opposing half while putting in some big tackles on their giant No 8 – and any other player that came her way.

Cowbridge backs made several decent breaks with crisp teamwork between outside half Anna Jenkins, wing Zoe Wells and centre PJ Kinsella to gain much-needed ground.

There were opportunities for Cowbridge to score a try but they couldn't quite make it over the line.

A penalty in Waunarlwydd's 22 yielded three points, for a final score of 27-3.

The ladies have two remaining fixtures to complete the season. On Sunday, April 18, they will travel north to take on Dolgellau and the following week (April 25) they will face Kidwelly at home at 2.30pm.

AS/HL

Cowbridge close but fail to grab vital victory

COWBRIDGE set off for Cilfynydd needing a win after a series of disappointing results stretching back into January.

Starting brightly, Cowbridge moved the ball well and after wing Russ Watkins set off on a 30-metre run, outside-half Harry Davies took it on and brought play over to the left, where full-back Richie Howson released left-wing Aaron Glasser on a run which ended with an obstruction.

Moments later from a lineout take by captain Steve Birchenough, a good pass by scrum-half Dewi Edwards allowed Davies to chip over the defence and regather – only to be brought down metres from the line.

Next, as the ball moved right, centre Ian Overton held up his opposite number and then released it to Davies, again for a run right up to the line but the referee signalled no try.

In the opening 20 minutes, Cilfynydd had hardly been in Cowbridge's half and it was plain how much Cowbridge had missed Davies over the last few games.

On the 30-minute mark, a high kick was fielded by Birchenough who set off on a 25-metre run. He was brought down by Cilfynydd's scrum-half who, in the ensuring action, was sent to the sin bin.

Cowbridge took full advantage and a good phase of play saw Howson go in at the corner; a difficult conversion just failed.

The Cowbridge front row of Jon Phillips, Rhys Price and Alun John were working hard against bigger opponents and Ian Overton in the centre was making a number of breaks.

It was from broken play that the ball was moved left to Overton who handed off his centre, used winger Glasser as a decoy and then cut back inside to end up under the posts for a fine try which Howson converted.

Half-time, 0-12 to Cowbridge.

Cilfynydd were quicker out of the blocks in the second half and after a series of drives their scrum-half chipped over the packs for the outside centre to score a converted try. A reshuffle caused by Josh Lewis' injury moved Russ Watkins to flanker to join the other hardworker Carwyn Davies.

On the 25-minute mark, after sustained pressure, the Cilfynydd No 8 picked up from a scrum to crash over, levelling the scores.

Cowbridge were still in it, but with only seven minutes left, Cilfynydd took the lead for the first time from a penalty.

With Cowbridge tiring, they were coming under considerable pressure. Then a harsh penalty gave Cilfynydd three more points.

Cilfynydd took a quick tap penalty and their scrum-half dived over for a converted try, giving a final score 25-12, which flattered Cilfynydd. Although no-one would deny their victory, the loss of a bonus point was frustrating.

On Saturday, Cowbridge face Blackwood Stars at home. With the warmer weather here we hope you can come down and support the boys. Kick-off 2.30pm.

Just a reminder that the veterans' tour is on for May 1, with all the usual ingredients and master-minded as usual, following the brilliant weekend with the French, by John Powell.

RV/RK

Junior open day

COWBRIDGE Cricket Club is putting on a junior open day on Sunday, April 18 at 10.30am at the Athletic Ground.

There will be registration, coaching by fully-qualified ECB coaches, a barbecue and raffle. The bar will also be open for parents!

A club spokesman said: "All juniors wishing to play cricket are welcome to attend. The club is keen for all juniors to take part, whether boys or girls, experienced or beginners. Whatever age or ability, there is an opportunity to get involved.

"In addition to weekly coaching, the club will be running junior teams (under-11, under-13 and under-15) in the Cardiff and the Vale League and the National Knockout Cup."

Details of coaching days and matches are available on the website.

For further information about the club, please contact Jonathan Smart on 07710 088581 or visit the club's website: www.cowbridge-cricket.co.uk

Under-12s take on new opposition

COWBRIDGE Under-12s entertained Nantyffyllon RFC for the first time in what proved to be a very testing match.

The Nanty pack was the largest the Cowbridge boys had played this season, and the forwards were complemented by skillful backs.

The game got off to a good start with a try within five minutes from Rian Thomas playing in a new role as left wing. (He was always too clever to be a forward).

He took the ball on the halfway line and powered around the Nanty defence to open the scoring, and the conversion by Jonny Harvey was successful.

Nanty came straight back into the game with an interception try, but the conversion was missed to give Cowbridge a narrow 7 – 5 lead.

The Nanty pack were keeping the Cowbridge eight pinned down and they deservedly scored another try to take the lead before Cowbridge's new flyer, Rian Thomas, hit back to provide a 12 – 10 half time lead.

The Cowbridge coaches gave the boys some strong advice at half-time and the forwards started to compete more effectively with their Nanty opponents.

Strong runs by Frazz McGhan, Josh Brace and Ben Jones kept Cowbridge on the front foot. It was 10 minutes into the second half when the ball was won by the Cowbridge pack on the half-way line, and the backs pushed the ball out to Rian, who cut in, blasted through the Nanty covering tackles, and sprinted in from 30 metres to give Cowbridge a bigger lead.

Cowbridge now had the upper hand but the boys still had to make loads of tackles, with Luke John, Matt Harper, Ashford Thomas and Hywel Williams putting in some great hits to keep the opposition at bay.

With 10 minutes to go, Ben Jones picked up the ball on the half-way line and dodged at least five tackles to run in.

Cowbridge now felt comfortable with a 22 – 10 lead.

However, there was more to come with Miles Davies receiving the ball on the halfway line after good passing by the backs and, despite the close attentions of at least three Nanty defenders, managed to score under the posts.

The final score was 27 – 10 and was a great preparation for next week's Blues Cup semi-final against Penarth. A big thank you to Nantyffyllon and we hope to arrange regular seasonal fixtures with them in the future.

Full squad: Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Tom Evans, Ben Jones, Frazz McGhan, Rob David, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Jonny Harvey, Gabriel Newham, Rian Thomas, Harvey Stockford, Matt Harper and Miles Davies.

The under-8s and under-9s competed in their district tournaments. Both sides put up creditable performances and progressed to the semi-final stages of the tournament.

The under-8s played some great rugby throughout the day, but lost out by the odd score in a seven-try thriller in the semi-final. The under-9s also played some superb rugby before eventually losing out to the tournament hosts Llanishen in their semi-final.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!

The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email them to:
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